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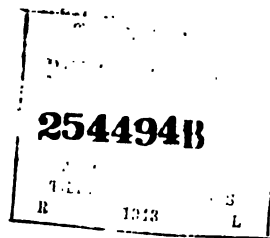
THE KEY
OF
INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE
GOVERNMENT.

BY
W. L. G.
PRUNING KNIFE.

ST. LOUIS, MO.:
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

1886.

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TO
SOCIAL SCIENCE
ASSOCIATIONS, POLITICAL
ECONOMISTS AND ALL WHO ARE
INTERESTED IN THE GOOD GOVERNMENT OF
MANKIND, THIS SMALL WORK IS
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.



“By their fruits ye shall know them.”

The force of this passage of Scripture impressed me in my boyhood as applicable to society collectively as well as individually; and during the past thirty years it has ever been present to my mind, indicating the inconsistencies of prevailing forms of political economy; for, judging by their fruits, they are evidently radically wrong in inception. This maxim in particular: “History repeats itself,” that, parrot-like, the majority of mankind have learned to repeat, without pausing to think of its significance, has led me to earnestly examine the underlying stratas upon which the foundations of all governmental systems rest.

According to an accepted theory among many — without any logical reasons for its maintenance — that the nations of to-day are destined to pass through the same processes of failure and decadence as those of the past; for though the world has made a gradual and wonderful advancement in the sciences and mechanics; in moral ethics, which is the true groundwork of progressive civilization, it has made but little progress.

The question naturally arises: Were the causes that made the governments of the past failures ever ascertained, and their removal attempted by the world’s vaunted political economists? No; though in all ages a few minds have endeavored to remove some of the

evils existing in their day by remodeling them, instead of removing the causes producing them :

“ No effect without a cause ;
No failure without a cause.”

Facts of history prove that the ethics of the nations of the past were failures so far as the equitable government of mankind is concerned. Then it is fallacious to expect anything better than now obtains while the same causes that produced the failures in the past still remain the foundations upon which are constructed the governments of to-day. Endeavoring to adapt the false principle of isolated selfish endeavor with a peaceful condition of society, — a moral impossibility, for every step of the way is necessarily a conflict of interests and ever recurring social failures. This is the best argument that MUTUAL ENDEAVOR, as demonstrated in part by co-operative societies, is the only practical means to insure the peaceful and progressive government of mankind.

The purpose of this small volume is not alone to advocate the co-operative form of industrial enterprises by associations, but also the extension of its principles into governments ; realizing that the increase of co-operative associations will in time necessarily bring about the same conflict of interests as to-day exist between individuals indiscriminately, and capitalistic syndicates versus public welfare ; unless, apace with the growth of co-operative industries the public mind is educated to a full understanding of its broader and more beneficent meaning and use than to merely increase the money and real estate possessions of its associated enterprises. To insure its real and permanent benefits to the world, it must of necessity, in time, push aside every form of competitive commerce, or the selfish battles of humanity will be continued by co-operative combina-

tions arrayed against each other, instead of the unorganized struggle between individuals and monopolies against society, and HISTORY WILL AGAIN AND AGAIN REPEAT ITSELF. Taking this practical view of the situation it is the purpose of this book to show the advantages of the INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE over the COMPETITIVE form of government.

In the endeavor to present this economic question in a pleasing and instructive way it is woven with simple rhyme and plainest prose into a description of UNIVERSAL CO-OPERATION, as seen on another planet.

Purposely avoiding the bias of all preconceived theories of others on the subject, I have confined the work strictly to my own observations and reflections of life, and offer it as a mite in conjunction with the efforts of others to usher in the NEW ERA, as taught by Jesus of Nazareth in his divine injunction: "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you."

Hoping that it will, at least, assist a few to gain a clearer understanding of what constitutes a TRUE CIVILIZATION, it is submitted for your consideration.

Respectfully,

THE AUTHOR.



INTRODUCTORY.



A combination of circumstances have forced an epoch upon us, that even the most reflective minds of the past half century — but a few years since — thought could not possibly occur for many centuries to come.

Earnestly following the course of public and social polity we were led twenty-five years ago to the conviction that the world was on the eve of rapid changes, typified by steam and electricity, and that reforms were shortly to transpire, which in comparison with the slow plodding methods of the past, would be as the electric message is speedier than the lumbering stage and post horse.

In 1869, and again in 1876, we stated in public that the world was about to enter an era of radical change for the betterment of our social and material government, that it would not be brought about by the love of justice or the love of the neighbor, as much as by other factors which were forcing mankind to adopt prudential protective measures for their material security.

The political economy of to-day has narrowed down to two simple propositions: Shall all the machinery and intelligence of the age be abused to mainly administer to the accumulative wealth and power of the few, and the corresponding poverty and enslavement of the many? Or shall it be justly utilized to bless all mankind? And by the adherence to either of these two propositions are to be judged the relation of individuals for or against human progress.

All the nations of the earth are quivering with a nervous tremor, as though on the threshold of some portending evil. In the midst of the Earth's succession of plentiful harvests the cry of want is heard louder and louder every successive year. We asked this question eighteen years ago :

Why this gorgeous palace for the one and squalid tenement for another ?

The money power has drained dry, from the toilers, the fruits of all their industry, and it is now exploiting on the invested capital of small wholesale and retail dealers, increasing monthly the list of bankruptcies and spreading consternation in all phases of commerce and manufacture. This rapacity of monopoly is the main lever that has hastened reformatory measures and given such a rapid momentum to the present movement.

It is the object of this volume to show how the vast resources of beautiful nature can, under intelligent direction, be utilized, and a system of equitable, orderly distribution and increasing morality take the place of the unfair methods, want, crime, strife and immorality of to-day.

A lifetime devoted to the cause has forced a realization that but few—not even excepting a majority of the educated—are capable of grappling with the issues of the day, so deeply rooted are human prejudices, and so pernicious have been all the customs of the competitive system in developing a false conception of equity. The subject is too great to be done full justice to in a small work of this character, and we only aspire to treat it in general outline ; preferring to give it a more elaborate treatment on some future occasion. We have combined a little of the romantic, the marvelous and descriptive features with the subject in order

to make it more acceptable to the young and the untutored, and make them familiar with the causes underlying the World's strife, and the too plainly marked inequalities in all social conditions. We have strictly avoided saying anything that the most exacting — who are endeavoring to be just — can object to ; fully realizing that we are all creatures of circumstances, more or less influenced by our surroundings, and while the main object of life continues to be the desire to acquire property and social elevation thereby ; it is folly to expect the ablest to stay in the gutters. Those who climb to the top round of the ladder through their intelligence and energy, will also in the true civilization — now dawning — be needed at the head of all departments of life, to insure the best possible good to all.

It is maintained by some political economists — and not a few — “that it would be unsafe to materially change the social conditions of life,” also, “that the majority being only partially educated and lacking in refinement, it is best that they should remain widely separated from the refined and educated classes.” This policy would be a sound one — if by it was meant that the pure and beautiful in life should not be contaminated by contact with the impure and angular ; and none then could offer any reasonable objection to it ; but the facts are that while pretending to maintain social castes on this plea, it is merely the flimsiest of excuses to support injustice done to the sacred rights of others. A pre-concerted method to support drones on the kernels of the harvest while busy bees of industry are forced to feed on the husks : What a moral standard for the world's example !

If the majority are “coarse and uneducated,” is it desirable and wise to have them remain so ?

O ! Heavenly Father, spread the broader light of

Thy great love o'er human understanding. Life has better purposes than greedy strife, want, disease, and moral death, for these alone are the products of such false political economy.

"Labor is noble and holy."

Have we as a nation respected this principle — which was supposed to be — the very foundation of our republican form of government? No, — emphatically, no! On the contrary we have gradually as a people departed from its policy, until the unjust lines of social demarkation and excessive wealth in contrast with enforced idleness and poverty are as wide as they are in the old dynasties of Europe and Asia.

Twenty-seven years ago in Chicago, when connected with the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association; and again in St. Louis in 1872, we stated that while in our egotism we would be priding ourselves on our liberties and boasting of our superiority as a people over other nations, that the lands going into the hands of speculators and the growth of oligarchial monied monopolies would forge chains for the enslavement of the industrial classes, and the probabilities were that Europe, and perhaps Asia, would step to the front and lead us in these reforms. The prediction was not lightly made — for young as we were — it was based on the results of observation and reflection while sojourning in three continents. Even Japan is taking the lead in securing all the most complete methods of education to all her people, free of cost to the moneyless; and beneficent land measures are soon to be adopted in Great Britain that will bless industry and force the usurping drones of life to earn their living by performing some necessary use to a true civilization; that the earth may yield its bounty — not in vain — and the spirit of equity rule mankind, as so admirably

expressed in the following quotation from the inspired poet, Tennyson : —

“ Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times ;
Ring out, ring out, my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

“ Ring out old shapes of foul disease ;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold ;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

“ Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand,
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.”





THE KEY
OF
Industrial Co-operative Government.

SOLILOQUY.

I left the city's struggling throng,
O'er peaceful by-ways stroll'd along,
'Til tired on the sward I laid
Me down to rest in pleasant shade.

The ideal life of youth's bright dream
Has lost its rosy tinted gleam ;
And castles built with hopes so fair,
Like frailest bubbles burst in air.

With saddened thought I dwelt upon
The tangled meshes daily spun ;
The sordid aims ; base passions fed
In life's chance game for daily bread.

Thus querying : Is life's great aim
Mainly to strain for sordid gain ?
Have we no stimulus, but greed
As levers for our daily need ?

For certainly some other plan
Is possible for good of man,
Which based on truth would ever grow
Rich yield where 'er we plow and sow.

While resting, musing there 'twould seem
I journeyed far to see and glean
How other worlds, from out like strife
Had grown to nobler ways of life.

The lessons learned I'll strive to paint,
And though the colors are but faint,
I hope for even dullest brain,
At least, to draw the outline plain.

Come, follow me for a short time to glimpse the wise industrial and social government of another planet, and though some of the scenes and customs witnessed there may seem too much like the *Utopia of Poetic Dream-land*, I hope that you may glean some knowledge from them that will be of practical use in helping forward the true civilization of our earth; for as much as we may desire to remove the old condition of things for others more in accordance with the advance of science and invention, we will signally fail to better the condition of mankind, unless we aspire to a higher standard of moral ethics than now obtains in our dealings with each other.

The rights of society as a whole are very complex, and require careful consideration and nice tact for their equitable adjustment.

Perhaps the people of Venus may teach us the solution of some of the vexing problems now agitating the public; and by their superior knowledge and practice of equity assist us, not alone to conquer the powers

that oppress us, but also educate us to a wise and impartial use of any changes in government which the near future may place in our keeping.

To make reforms permanently beneficial to the world, our moral education must keep pace with them, and the leadership of all phases of civil and social life must be in the hands of the truly just and cultured, and the Jacobins must be delegated to oblivion.



THE VOYAGE.

The mind at times composed has wondrous range,
For when all earthly cares stilled for a time,
Untrammelled thought, whilst roaming free may change
Its narrow scope to broadened view sublime.

Thus in repose we view with clearer sight
Than with distracting worry of the day,
As gems from darkness give the brightest light
With all their gleam confined in single ray.

Reclining 'neath a Locust's ample fold
Of rich hued leaf, and blossoms' sweet perfume;
The smiling fields Earth's plenteous bounty told,
And feathered songsters trilled in praiseful tune.

The joyous time when Spring and Summer pair;
Love's gentle power o'er Nature reigned supreme;
The gorgeous tints, the balmy laden air,
Fit place to lull to rest and pleasant dream.

So real, it seemed — a maiden — Queen of Grace —
Had led me to an unknown Ærial sea;
Bid me embark with her and sail through space,
That her bright planet's people I might see.

Her comely form, draped in the graceful fold
Of raiments rich in color and design,
Outlined a model of such perfect mould,
A charm to, even, genius art refine.

No affectation; false pretence to lure;
Her mien bespoke a soul exceeding fine;
A lovely gem, so sparkling bright and pure,
To picture her beyond the power of rhyme.

No fear had I to venture with a guide
 Who understood so pleasingly to lead ;
 'Twas bliss suffice with such companion ride,
 My soul, content, was filled of all its need.



Life's ruddy stream coursed with more generous glow,
 And every nerve with the ecstatic thrill
 That wells from love with such supernal flow ;
 The wondrous power that higher soul wants fill :

The gentle force, no language can define
 Its power to fill the soul's entire domain,
 And all its earnest, goodly powers incline
 To faithful at its ideal shrine remain :

Sailing on Summer seas, within its realm,
 Soul freed from care and all enslaving chains ;
 Life's rosy-day ; sweet Trust to guide the helm,
 A blessed harmony supremely reigns.

Love's sweet impress on swiftest pinions borne ;
A glance or thought our inmost being fills ;
E'en lightning of its subtle glory shorn
By heavenly, potent, sweet, magnetic thrills.

But to our voyage, yet fain I would portray
More fully this bright maid's enchanting grace ;
Of pure and cultured mind, a constant play
Of bright thought beams illumined her sweet face.

Our vessel was a very pleasing sight,
Had bird-like wings for sails, of curious make,
Propelled by motors, light, for rapid flight,
Combining greatest skill with graceful shape.

Embarking, soon upon our ærial flight,
With speed beyond all human power to count,
Eclipsing, even, rapid flow of light,
Away through seeming endless space we mount.

Our air-ship sailed on a mysterious tide,
Its like to mortal man was never known ;
Although so swift, it was but smoothest glide,
As though we were by heavenly zephyrs blown.

And the fair pilot sitting by my side
Beguiled the time with sweet converse and song ;
It was a marvelous and enchanting ride,
As to her planet home we sped along.

For hours we rode in blissful soul commune,
Nor heeded time's swift passage through the night,
Our minds a cord of perfect, sweetest tune ;
Love makes the dreariest, darkest path turn bright.

But gentle sleep, at last, asserting sway,
Unconscious held us in a close embrace,
From midnight to the light of early day:
An angel took my fair directress' place.

Awakening found this maid, o'er all the peer,
In sweet repose — confiding — love's true test;
A sphere encompassed her, so pure, no fear
Of guile disturbed her sweet contented rest.

Enchanting spell; the soul's enthralling chain;
The subtle links of Love's divinest art;
In state so blissful we would e'er remain,
A blend so true that time should never part.

Just from the twilight to the dawn of day,
Without a seeming effort or a strain,
We'd sailed from Earth to Venus, all the way;
But how propelled I never can explain.

A lovely shore in sight; the rising sun
With brilliant glory ushering in the day;
And lavishly o'er sky and land soon spun
A glittering sheen of gorgeous, golden spray.

With graceful sweep our air-ship reached the strand;
There noble youths, and maids exceeding fair,
With welcome song, and strains from finest band
Had come to cheer our early coming there.

The greeting o'er they led us to a coach,
Painted and carved with richest of display;
A pleasant ride; a city we approach,
Astir with joyous life on every way.

Within a spacious depot we alight,
With rooms and baths; clean linen for our wear,
And restaurant, most pleasing to the sight,
Where free they served the very best of fare.

No peddling venders there to meet your gaze,
Or greedy vampires idolizing gold;
Nor selfish discord there, in any phase,
Retarding progress with its vicious hold.

A generous motor rules them everywhere,
All their surroundings tints of cheerful hue;
Each in all others' welfare jointly share;
Of Nature's wealth they have the fullest due.

They long had banished competition's curses,
Which blight all phases of our life on earth,
The many slaves to fill the greedy purses
Of those who turn earth's plenty into dearth.

Superior taste and marvelous order were apparent everywhere; and the attire of both sexes was elegant, and eminently practical for healthful and graceful movement, and notwithstanding the great variety in dress we did not see the least evidence of vulgar taste, they exhibited a wonderful knowledge of the harmonious combination of colors and avoided all unpleasant contrasts.

From force of habit we were continually on the lookout for the marked caste lines of wealth and poverty, but in their stead we found refinement and plenty universal, and the general mannerisms of the people all that the most fastidious could desire. We were treated by them with a generous courtesy that made us feel perfectly at ease. I could not avoid contrast-



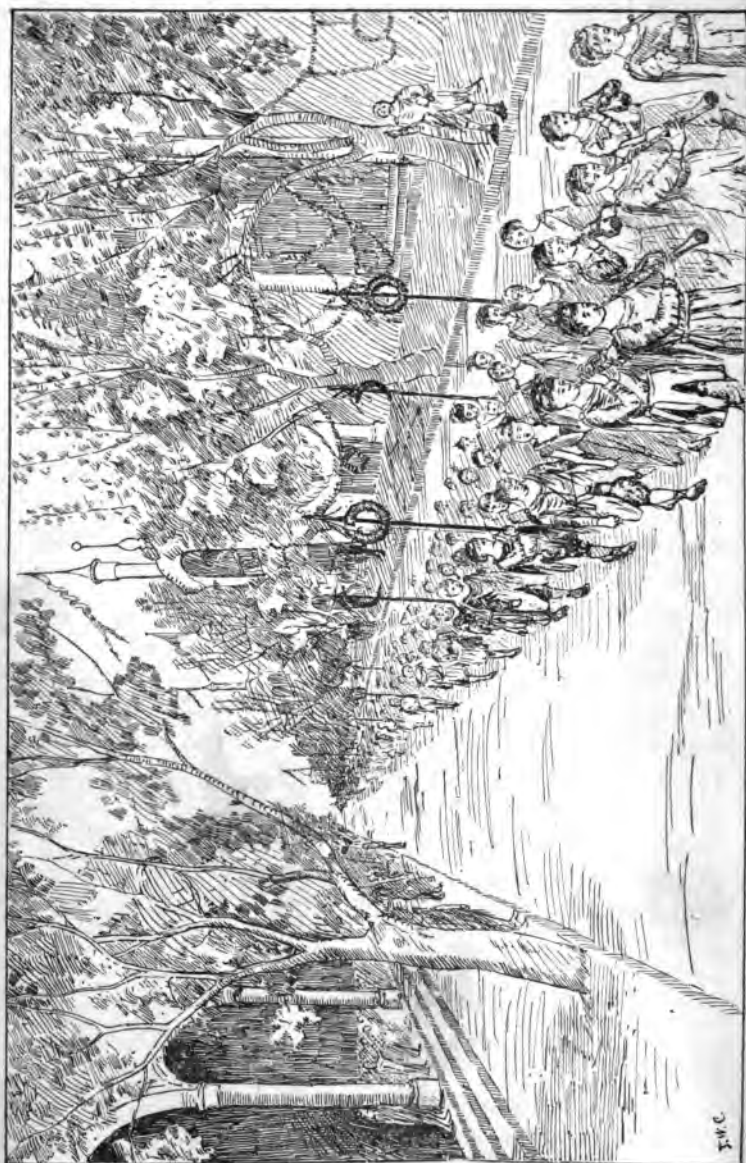
ing such truly genteel behavior with the custom on our planet — so prevalent in what is termed polite society — of endeavoring to stare into embarrassment those we deem ineligible to our social circles. They looked upon such conduct as the very worst form of ill-beeding.

Those connected with the railway, restaurant and the other uses that had come under our notice were neatly clad and very polite in manners. The most beautiful and elegantly dressed ladies vied with each other in their affable familiarity with them. My surprise at this marked difference in conduct, to the prevailing custom on earth, attracted the attention of my companion, who said: "We look upon all necessary uses as both respectable and honorable, and by this means in particular we have checked—in fact uprooted—the growth of all forms of pretentious usurpation. We consider the class of genteel idlers who infest every phase of—what is termed—polite society on your planet, as a class criminally infringing on the moral and material rights of society; hence we do not tolerate drones in our midst, and we have none. Although your advent on our planet is during a holiday, when all business gives place to pleasure, I hope before you leave us that you will have ample opportunity to fully comprehend our methods of government."

We strolled through the beautiful place, everywhere alive with preparation for the great holiday procession and festival which they were about to celebrate.

THE FLORAL FETE.

To honor age they give a fête each year,
And we had come upon the very day;
They bid us join them in their festal cheer,
And march, 'midst scenes so gay, along the way.



Fair maids and youths, in well selected pairs,
With charming colors matched, in line took place ;
The bands sound forth the most melodious airs,
And all moved on, with perfect time and grace.

I've seen the aged and young, in best attire,
Turn out in honor of some favored day ;
But ne'er saw joy lit with such sparkling fire
As there displayed, on every face and way.

From staffs and towers and fronts on every hand,
Gay flags and emblems fluttered in the breeze ;
A sight to make the narrowest soul expand,
And mortal tastes, the most fastidious, please.

And this continued all along the route
For miles beneath tall shade trees' sheltering fold,
To spacious parks, where lavish spread about
Were decorations gorgeous to behold.

The greatest taste displayed on every hand ;
Triumphal arches dressed with festooned flowers ;
And circling 'round an ornate music stand,
Luxurious seats beneath enchanting bowers.

The day seemed like an ideal fairy trance ;
Their votive offerings of love to age
Left naught undone that could the least enhance
Love's garland weaving for life's closing page.

The Autumn days, content, with sweet repose ;
The ripened years, with work so even spun ;
The golden leaves betoken Summer's close ;
Life's varied fabric weaving fitly done.

The march resumed at early close of day ;

The maids and youths in pleasant chat and song,
And graceful figure marching on the way,
To sweetest tunes so merrily tripped along.

Some part with kind good-night, others with sighs ;
Some love-locked hands reluctantly unfold ;
For Cupid — tireless archer — ceaseless tries
His hand at piercing hearts in every fold.

What sight more pleasing than the face of youth
Lit with the glow of Love's first conscious flush ;
From others' gaze they fain would hide the truth,
So plainly shown in every tell-tale blush.

And loth to part from my sweet ideal being ;
The blissful hours too speedily passed away ;
Her sphere a bright and golden portal seeming,
Leading to joys of an eternal day.

We reach a building of palatial size,
Of rich-hued marbles, sparkling in the light ;
Tall minarets in graceful splendor rise
To shed most brilliant light throughout the night.

My fair companion said, " In this hotel
You'll find a pleasant lodging for the night ;
In the Great Parent's keeping slumber well ;
We'll meet again at early morn ; good night."

The entrance through a grandly frescoed hall,
With rich-laid floors ; stairs easy of ascent ;
Niches with chastely statues in the wall,
And founts that sprayed the mildest, sweetest scent.

A page in waiting said, "Sir, come with me,
I'll lead you to a chamber for the night."
Remarking doors had neither lock nor key,
The youth replied,* "Our guardian here is right."

Upon a downy bed I soundly slept
'Till glorious sunbeams chased the night away,
And pearly tears the sunless night had wept
Yet lingered 'pon the face of early day.

My room in taste and elegance outshone
The chambers of the fabled kings, of old;
There everything for comfort seeming done,
And this was common everywhere, I'm told.

The marble walls, in pleasing blended tints;
Carvings and tracings rich in golden line;
Eclipsing all our daubs and paper prints;
A style unique and exquisitely fine.

Rich furniture, and vessels wrought of gold;
The bedding exquisite in quality and make;
And baths with perfumed water, hot and cold,
Prepared for me, which e'er I choose to take.

Closets with doors of richly embossed plate,
By some ingenious mechanism ope,
So that the most fastidious could sate
Their taste for dress to its completest scope.

* In direct proportion to the development of large fortunes and caste lines in our Republic we have built jails and paraded showily uniformed police in our cities.

My toilet scarce complete, enchanting sounds
Thrilled forth in anthem to the early morn ;
From spire to spire rang in continuous rounds,
Music sublime of every crudeness shorn.

The bells were all arranged in such a way,
And so connected by electric wires,
That one performer all of them could play,
In perfect chord, in all the city's spires.

The page bid me good morn ; said he was there
As usher ; sent to lead me to my guide ;
I greet my ideal lily — pure and fair —
My queen of all the Universe — so wide.

We walked into a park, where quite a throng
This early morn had come, 'mid lovely bowers,
To praise the power on high in cheerful song ;
Incense perfumed with breath of sweetest flowers

Their grateful song made all my senses glow ;
With clearer sight I scanned the soul's domain,
And learned that love is source of all the flow
Of every good mankind can hope to gain ;

Eternal glow of higher thought which lifts
The groping soul from low to higher plain ;
The clearer sense of sight that clearly sifts
The worthless chaff from out the golden grain.

Could tongue or pen but faintly here portray
A tithe of what my inward spirit saw ;
To paint with words, the best that I could say
Would fail, entire, to any semblance draw.

Then finished their harmonious heavenly trill;
The feast of soul being ended for the time;
The body has its daily wants to fill
In theirs as well as any other clime.

They all dispersed to take their morning meal
In several routes, returning as they came,
The bracing morning air made me to feel
That I had stomach, in the best of frame.

Our table had a very bounteous spread
Of everything the appetite could wish,
Of vegetables, eggs, fruit, cakes and bread,
And luscious drinks,* to season every dish.

And many strangers at this board were fed;
From other planets come as I to learn
In all this noble people others led,
To teach to theirs as soon as they return.

'Twould take too long to full description give
Of their superior manners, 'tis enough
To say, the most refined on Earth, that live,
Compared to them are metal in the rough:

Superior sense 'mong all of them we find;
To tell the truth, without the least of strain,
Of all the planets we're the most behind;
In social science make but smallest gain.

In contrast with some other spheres, we know,
Our Earth is but an atom in its size;
Absurdly some try very hard to show
For us alone were made all in the skies.

* Non-intoxicating.

Our breakfast o'er we go to see and learn
How people on this planet lived so well,
That with the greatest ease they all can earn
Their fullest need, yet neither buy nor sell.

A spacious park ; streets circling round and round
With railways intersecting every way ;
No matter to which quarter you are bound
A pleasant ride by night as well as day.

Propelled by an ingenious motor power ;
Place for light baggage, most luxurious seats ;
Fit place to while amused a leisure hour
In viewing parks and scenes along the streets.

The people were so orderly and neat,
The streets all paved, and kept so very clean,
That dirt enough to even soil the feet
Was seldom in their cleanly cities seen.

No crowded tenements allowed to curse
The cities with their wretched filth and sin ;
Breed crime and dire disease, to fill the purse
Of knavish wolves, guised in a human skin.

All did their part at some appropriate work,
For which they taste and skill had fully shown ;
No envious contrasts there to make them shirk,
'Mong them the curse of idleness unknown.

They labor for the common good of all,
With best of order, no contentious strife ;
We make forced idlers by the rise or fall,
In greedy barter, of the goods of life.

Nor there mechanic or laborer illy paid,
In smutty garb despised by useless drones,
Denied just share of that their toil hath made;
Their scanty fare a meal from well-picked bones.

Labor was honored, made so cheerfully light,
Few hours a day sufficed where all did share;
No slavery from the early morn 'til night;
Their task soon done, had ample time to spare.

Their laws and customs everywhere express
How firm on justice this good people stood;
They knew the secret of a true success,
Superior skill was used for all their good.

No vagrants, paupers, there seen anywhere,
No haunts of vice to taint the soul's pure sense;
Nor licensed hells, with their debasing snare,
Sanctioned by law to tempt them from the right.

They manufactured on the grandest scale,
And labored so as to produce the best;
On farms, in factories, work on sea or rail,
They chose the skillful ones to lead the rest.

The best results attained from every use;
No selfish profit, fears about the pay;
Nor narrow minds intrude the least excuse,
To check the growth of progress for a day.

So well arranged their labor and their skill,
This people have abundance and to spare;
By toiling little all their wants can fill,
And plenteous bounty shower everywhere.

In every use this people ever strive
To fill each other's needs as soon as known ;
Thus, from all nature's treasures they derive
The very best, superior minds are shown.

In lieu of greedy profit made by us,
Industrial bureaus on each other draw *
For all the products without least of fuss ;
With great dispatch, a system without flaw.

Instead of gold and silver in the vault,
Each district kept account of all produced ;
All wants supplied, no cause to find least fault ;
To miserly hoard none there the least induced.

Their stores disbursed according to their need,
Contentment, love and virtue 'mong them dwell ;
We criminals make by their precarious need ;
Turn Paradise into a seething hell.

We clearly saw the fantasy that claims
For money the controlling right of trade ;
A tyranny forever forging chains
To blight the moral life of every grade.

We boast the progress of this vaunted age ;
Inventions rare to aid in every work ;
Yet social failure 's stamped 'pon every page,
And monster evils in our systems lurk.

'Tis pitiful, our ways of selfish strife ;
With envy, hope of gain, the dread
Of loss and want, we ever make of life
A troubled care for shelter and our bread.

* It was a collective system ; there was no individual exchange of production.

Some scramble worse than do the hungry swine,
In ceaseless struggle for their daily keep.
Some arrogant; wealth wrested from their kine,
The masses but a fold of poor fed sheep.

Methought how blind Earth's people grope their way;
We have material, labor and the skill;
Yet with our selfish cunning progress stay,
And life with crime and malice needless fill.

No knavish shams, through money power, there
Can seat themselves as head in any place;
The fittest minds, 'tis proven very clear;
They always choose to all departments grace.

At truths knaves sneer and to the masses tell:
"Reforms by dangerous demagogues are taught;"
"Content with things just as they are is well;"
Thus evil power through every age has wrought.

Pretenders, yes; you teach false social laws,
Say, "Vice mankind must always here endure;"
Do naught but work at patching up the flaws;
Leave the disease without its proper cure.

Their plans are false; their logic out of frame;
As tenable the base on which they stand
As some poor "Simple Simon's" fruitless aim
To darken sunlight with his puny hand.

At noon we dined at a suburban restaurant (one of several located about the city, and systematically conducted by the government for the use of citizens

and visitors); then continued our inspection of the wonderful place and its people until nightfall.

After supper, appropriately attired, we attended a social entertainment given for the purpose of enabling us to meet the people during their hours of leisure.

Their enjoyments were of a very refined and varied character, fully apace with all the evidences of progress we had everywhere witnessed since our arrival on the planet.

At half past ten we returned to our hotels — but a small park intervened between my guide's and the one I dwelt in; — bidding her an affectionate good-night I sought my chamber and retired.

They had planned an excursion party for all the visiting strangers, hence we arose early, being informed of their intention to take us to all the principal points of interest on the planet.

After breakfast we took the train for a large neighboring manufacturing and distributing center — which we reached in an hour.

It was beautifully situated near the mouth of a broad river, emptying into a spacious, well sheltered bay.

As we had but an hour to remain before embarking on our voyage, we were conducted to a large ornamental tower, in a spacious park, so as to enjoy a bird's-eye view of the place.

They had a park for sanitary reasons, as well as for ornamentation and recreation in the center of every city on the planet.

We ascended to the top in a commodious elevator — there were twelve of them in all in the tower. The roof was sheltered by adjustable awnings of beautiful colors, supported on a graceful framework of bright-polished, non-corroding metal.

The city and surrounding country presented an

enchanted scene, and we were loth to leave when informed that it was time to embark.

From our lofty lookout we could clearly define their sensible plan of constructing cities.

The manufactories and warehouses were adjacent to spacious docks for the shipping — ten miles from the city, but very easy of communication with several finely constructed electric railroads.

The distributing stores for the use of the citizens were handsomely constructed buildings, very appropriately situated on the circular avenue skirting the park. They were not massed together, as are our retail stores, in solid blocks, but were very artistically placed at short distances from each other. All were in communication with a freight line of motor cars leading directly to the factories and all parts of the city. The delivery of goods to the citizens was conducted only at certain hours of the day, in order to avoid as much as possible unnecessary confusion in the residence portion of the city. The citizens made their selections from the stock in the bazaars, and had the privilege of carrying away any light or ornamental goods, but the rule of orderly delivery was strictly observed against all other class of goods.

The river frontage was laid out in beautiful promenades, studded with ornamental houses for shelter, and also had convenient landings for pleasure boats and ships, which remained only sufficient time to receive or land passengers, when they immediately moved away to the docks, or their other destinations.

Knowing the good influence of pleasant surroundings on the intellectual and moral development of the world, they did not obstruct or mar the scenery adjacent to their dwellings and pleasure resorts, etc.

The senses were not continually offended with the ceaseless confusion and offensiveness of greedy barter,

as they are on our planet. They also saved the time and labor — we so wastefully expend — in transporting goods about through so many needless hands, in the intricate ramifications of greedy barter for a profit to venders.

We embarked on a magnificent floating palace, profusely decorated, exteriorly and interiorly, and painted in bright harmonious colors; as equal taste was displayed on all the shipping and pleasure boats, you can form a conception of the novel and cheerful appearance of their sea and river ports.

As soon as we were well out at sea our speed was increased to sixty miles an hour, and we were informed that our passage of a thousand miles would be accomplished in seventeen hours.

The routes for ships going and coming between all the ports on the planet were mapped out fifty miles apart, and strictly followed until within fifty miles from port, when they gradually came nearer together, and the speed was slackened to avoid the danger of collisions.

The vessels were propelled by pneumatic-hydraulic motors, producing powerful and rapid motion, with a minute outlay for generating power — hence they did not require much storage room for fuel; they were built in water-tight compartments, making it almost impossible to sink them without a total wrecking.

The promenade decks, look-out stations and steering place were inclosed with plate glass in double sashes, with an ingenious system of ventilation, so that they could not become obscured with steam or frost. This afforded ample protection from the pressure of the atmosphere when under full speed, and they were also so contrived that they could easily be opened when desired — wholly or in part.

Each vessel has two complete sets of engines, so as

to uninterruptedly continue a voyage in case of an accident, or giving out of a part of the machinery.

Their system "adapts means to ends well."

They spare neither skill, labor or material to insure safety and comfort for their mutual good.

All our enterprises, on earth, are conducted on the false principle that the least possible expenditure in construction—taking fearful and criminal risks of life and limb—will insure the largest pecuniary profit to their projectors; and as this grasping for money or real estate is the principal object of all our competitive system, the principle of "Eminent Domain," the only true civilizing motor of the world, is totally disregarded.

As with individuals, so with people collectively; for instance Nations speculating on the probable wars between others, so as to open markets for exorbitant profit.

Is it any wonder that "history repeats itself?" the favorite assertion of those who are fearful that the world will change to a higher standard of moral obligation, and thereby interfere with their greedy opportunity to trespass on the rights of others.

With the same false conception of civil and social ethics, that have wrecked all nations in the past, left uncorrected, most assuredly history will continue to repeat itself.

The errors of the past should serve to guide us to a better future. Here is the science of good government in a nut-shell: Avoid all the errors of the past and improve the present.

We have not exercised even the commonest principles of order and business tact in legislation, ~~for~~ certainly governments are equally amenable to improvement, as the conduct of even the most trivial affairs of individuals who are ever on the alert to ~~adap~~ means to insure success in their various ~~enterprises~~

Good government is for the people's best welfare, and should practice even more vigilance in promoting the people's interest, than individuals do for their own.

The day on ship-board was full of instructive intercourse with the large number of representatives from other planets, who, it was said, had come together on Venus for a special purpose in universal planetary progress, and, if possible, simultaneously pattern after the good government of Venus; and also come to a common understanding of planetary intercommunication by the use of their advanced telescopic inventions.

Knowing that I represented a planet, the most backward of all in the universe, my position would have been a very embarrassing one had their sense of courtesy been of no higher standard than our world's; but it made them the more desirous of paying extra attention in their instructive friendliness to me.

At ten o'clock we retired to our state-rooms, as we were to sight land at daylight in a much warmer latitude than the one we had left. We arose at dawn and found clothing adapted to the climate at our disposal, which we donned and were soon on deck to witness the glorious sunrise at sea. A prominent headland was in sight which we soon rounded, and before us an extensive bay studded with islands, forming a fine shelter for the harbor we were nearing.

The gentle off-shore breeze wafting a delicious aroma from fruit and flowers, and the glitter of, yet, golden sunlight on the surroundings made an enchanting landscape.

Passing slowly through the roadstead amid boats of fanciful designs, which were sailing and moving about in all directions, an official barge came alongside and a committee of ladies and gentlemen stepped on deck and welcomed us — in the name of the citizens — with

generous courtesy. The manners of this people clearly proved that they derived the greatest enjoyment in doing good and administering to the comfort of others. We accompanied them ashore in their barge and landed at a magnificently constructed pavilion — on the promenade skirting the harbor in front of the city — which was lavishly and tastefully decorated with flowers and banners. Many thousand people had assembled to greet our arrival, and had arranged themselves with bands and singing choirs on either side of the way from the landing to the hotel, where we partook of a fine breakfast, and soon afterwards were led by the committee to a very spacious hall and held a reception for the citizens for several hours. Whilst commenting on the grandeur of the entertainment, we were laughingly informed that the places we would visit would vie with each other in honoring us, as the news of our coming had been flashed over the route.

At noon we repaired to dinner; or rather “a feast fit for the gods;” then rested awhile, and at two o’clock were taken about the city in gracefully constructed motor carriages. Horses or beasts of burden were not used in any of the cities and seldom anywhere, except in very hilly and unsettled districts.

The absence of animals on public highways was a source of comfort and cleanliness. As they extended the area of cultivation they immediately constructed the roads for motor railways and road carriages. Their lands are cultivated by motor power machinery of a high order of ingenuity and easy of management.

Truly, they have harnessed the forces of nature to do their bidding; having the best incentive to work at some necessary use and delight in beautifying all the surroundings, as all equally enjoyed the benefits therefrom. What a contrast between their truly co-operative system, perfect in all the departments of life, and

our selfish isolated interests of the competitive system, which precludes the just and orderly use of Nature's beautiful resources. Our mental vision blurred with an opthalmic greed we stray from the paths of justice and harmony, and grope in the cesspools of usurpation and discord.

The educational facilities were of the most liberal character; all had the undisputed right to avail themselves of every branch of instruction; and it was not a question of money or favoritism, giving the opportunity for higher education to a few only as it is with us.

The systems of training were wisely adapted to interest and most completely develop the particular tastes of each student. This not only assured a speedier acquisition of knowledge, but also most effectually fitted them for the uses in life which nature had given them the most talent for, and mental excellence was there never "born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air." We noticed that there was an entire absence of mythical nonsense and conflicting issues in their literature, neither did they waste much valuable time in contemplating the ashes of the dead past; just sufficient to serve the comparative contemplation of the world's progress.

Under the management of the Board of Education — *pro rata* the population — they had scientific lecturers, actors, singers and musicians in every district, and as they yearly visited the principal cities in every section of the planet, it insured a constant variety of the most intellectual and enjoyable entertainment to all.

Most of the places of amusement were connected with the schools, which were very ornate and roomy structures and amply supplied with all ingenious devices for embellishing stage scenery with realistic beauty.

Reader, you may doubt the ability of a people to continuously support such a lavish expenditure of talent

and material. It may be necessary to repeat again that under co-operative management, material, labor and skillful direction are the three great and alone necessary factors to supply the whole human family with every necessity and luxury that the most advanced thought and taste can desire ; and they are ever present with us in more than sufficient quantities.

The power of money could not hold back the good of life from one portion and give to others an undue share, as they had for ages entirely removed its baneful curse from their planet.

What use does money really perform to society that could not be done better without it? Absolutely, the principal function it performs on our planet is to make the many dependent serfs of the few. Its disuse, as a power of accumulative infringement on the natural rights of others will be the first great practical step towards a true civilization. For, as astounding as may seem the assertion, it is the blight of all moral and material development, for without performing any necessary use in the world, those who hoard it have the power to grasp not alone all the cream of the industrial classes' labor, but also to hold from them the right to earn their daily bread by controlling the earth and its natural resources with the purchasing power of their earnings.

Have we a substitute to replace it with, without doing violence to the rights of society as now organized? Or is it practical to at once institute legislation to that end?

In reply to the first proposition, no matter what our views may be of the ideal in human affairs, we must not lose sight of society as it is at present organized and fettered with property interests ; any undue interference with the rights of acquired property would be indignantly resented ; therefore, it is impractical to at

once set aside and ignore established precedents with regard to the rights of possession. Emphatically we have a substitute in co-operation which will of necessity extend itself until it embraces every phase of life.

It certainly is practicable to begin legislating with a view to gradually change from the competitive to the co-operative system.

We must first stop the sale of any more public lands, granting renewable life leases of a limited number of acres to actual settlers and their descendants at a very small governmental tax — for revenue only — and this land must be absolutely not transferable to any person holding lands — other than a residence in a city.

All lands unsettled and unimproved after a lapse of five years shall be purchasable by the government, at not more than its cost value.

All lands held by individuals or corporate bodies exceeding the amount specified by law shall be taxed on the accumulative plan of doubling itself for every additional quarter section of acres, added to the specified first legal holding. This would stop the stealings of corporations through legislative corruption and keep the lands available to the masses, for the excessive taxes would make them unprofitable to hold for speculative or other purpose than working a limited number of acres, and it would also tend to gradually bring the fictitious valuations of real estate down to a reasonable price, so that all individuals could easily secure a small farm or a city home, and it would make the excess of real estate an incubus which no sane person would attempt to hold. There can be no danger from a too sudden change in this respect, for are there not sufficient good lands left in the possession of the government to materially affect the real estate market for several years to come; thus giving society ample time to adjust itself to the new order of things.

The power of money could be regulated as follows :—

Allow any individual to hold a capital of ten thousand dollars at a tax not exceeding a mill per cent and two per cent for the next ten thousand ; then double the tax with every additional five thousand ; this would not prevent the acquirement of a reasonable competency, nor would it interfere with any legitimate enterprise.

Individuals could make all over these amounts that their ability would secure, but it would be unprofitable to hoard it, as the accumulated tax would soon be more than they could make with it, and thus it would go back to the people's treasury, and be put in circulation again by the government expending it in public improvements,—such as railroads, harbor and river improvements, highways, public buildings, etc. They could enjoy all the advantages of its purchasing power during their lives, thus helping to keep active all the industries by its constant circulation.

It is very evident to all observant minds that all governments will soon conduct all enterprises that require collective skill, capital and labor.

Combined capital has a power to acquire excessive profits and correspondingly draw money out of active circulation, and in direct proportion all the industries are depressed, by the decreased power of purchase, through the money going out of the control of the masses into the coffers of the few. Here is mainly the cause of business panics, and it is fallacious to attribute them to any other source.

It is argued that capitalistic hoardings are invested in large enterprises, and thus render a benefit to the public. This is one of the vilest sophisms used in support of the money power, for in reality the public give two dollars for every dollar's benefit they receive from its use in all such enterprises conducted by capitalists,

which could be better accomplished by the government, and the exorbitant profit now paid to capital saved to the people.

Again it is maintained that the government is corrupt enough now, and that to enlarge its functions would tend to an increase of dishonesty in office.

There is a great deal of truth in the statement, but as the opportunities and temptations for dishonesty in office have been and still are due to a lack of proper vigilance on the part of the people in exacting from office-holders a strict accountability to their constituents, it can be, and will be remedied; for the masses are already becoming more interested and enlightened in governmental affairs, for the panics have been good educators.

Besides we can insure honest legislation by making the penalties for malfeasance in office very severe; and dishonesty would certainly lessen in direct proportion as we curtailed the power of monopolies; for unquestionably they are the greatest source of corruption.

The legislative bodies of the so-called civilized nations meet year after, with so much pretension and parade, only to waste time trifling with the flimsiest of measures, of little or no real good to humanity, while all along the ages the encroachments of the money autocracies have been left unchecked, until they have absorbed and have control of nearly all the opportunities of life, and notwithstanding all the late developments of science and invention — sent by the Lord to lighten the burdens of life — the masses are daily becoming more dependent serfs of the merciless money power. O! what a commentary on this boasted Christian civilization!

Is it not time to cry out indignant condemnation and demand of legislation something better; more in keeping with the light of this nineteenth century?

We must defer the more complete elucidation of our governmental affairs for the present and suggest the remedies as we continue our description of the plan of governmental ethics on Venus.

They had so systematized every branch of education and industry, that all worked together in perfect harmony, like the machinery of a well regulated clock.

Nor envious nations with conflicting laws ;
Their codes deceiving statutes ; full of flaws ;
Their interests one ; where truth is held in sight.
'Tis easiest task to keep the path of right.

Nor party cliques ; or lobbyists with gold
Could cause delay and public good withhold ;
There without conflict it was wisely planned
To fullest justice do to every land.

Nor unfit minds by money power there
Could hold the reigns or lead in any place ;
The best of talent, it was proven clear,
They always choose, to all departments grace.

They wisely worked to pluck out every weed
And cultivate Life's Flora with best care ;
We let the weeds mature and cast their seed
To multiply their evils everywhere.

Such adepts grown in all deceptive parts,
That cunning 's surest road to worldly gain ;
Outstripping virtue, sciences and arts ;
The knaves in front ; back seats to ablest brain.

My guide remarked "as political economy is practiced on your planet, good is retarded ; for your selfish

interests are so interwoven in all the affairs of life that the majority, being ruled by property interests, are more inclined to perpetuate existing wrongs than they are to adopt remedial measures, which even for a short period only will conflict with their mistaken and greedy conception of the right to acquire unlimited property."

Even many who profess to follow in the footsteps of the gentle Nazarene, in their dealings with others totally ignore the brightest principles which illumined his teachings, as the true guide for our conduct.

"Notwithstanding the gloom, which has so long enveloped your planet, the light of a better age is breaking through the clouds and the world will soon clearly realize that life has nobler purposes than the ceaseless struggle to amass property for individual ownership?

"It is the inevitable compensatory law of the universe that even wrongs are forced to right themselves in time — by processes evolved from them, and not by accidental occurrences, for when truth is perverted, its product of evils accumulate so rapidly as to horrify and disgust the public and make them clamor for a better condition of things.

"The growth and encroachments of monopolies on your planet will soon make even the selfish affiliate — through prudential protective motives — with the reform elements to do away with them.

"The age of usurpation is nearing the end, and the birth of the 'New Era' is close at hand.

"The true solution of the problem of government resolves into an enforcement of two simple principles, *i.e.* : —

"Promote all that is conducive to a state of impartial justice.

"Prohibit and restrain all that is injurious to the common weal.

"The enemies of human progress contest every step

of the way with the bitterest antagonisms; even the sacred prerogatives of freedom — in your great republic — are interpreted to mean a license to sacrifice the welfare of the many to the unlimited power of individual accumulations.

“Through all ages the seeds of truth have been sown by the brightest minds of your earth and they have developed a growth that will soon change all your social and governmental relations.

“It will be a peaceful revolution — in the main — as you have many millions who have evolved to a fit capacity to direct it.

“You are wise enough to realize that revolutions fostered in revengeful violence keep alight the destructive fires of self-annihilation.

“If it is agreeable we will take the train for the manufactories, and you will be able to see how orderly and efficiently they are conducted.”

A few minutes' ride brought us there; noticing that many of their machines were similar to ours, my guide remarked: “Inventions on all the planets are governed by inevitable laws of mental progress, and discoveries may be simultaneously made on several or all of the planets; or even be brought into use by several individuals at the same time on any planet; for our minds are the receptacles of higher intelligences, which flow into us as we are prepared to receive and apply them.” The buildings were very extensive — embracing all the industries necessary to work up the products and resources indigenous to the climate; they were grouped together so as to insure economy in the handling of all material from beginning to finish.

Perfect order prevailed everywhere. The foremen in each department were selected by a board of examination; and thorough proficiency was absolutely the

requirement; neither favoritism nor money influence could corrupt the choice of the board.

The superintendents and general officers were composed of those who possessed superior qualifications: Thus the best talent was always assured to direct all their uses; the honors thus conferred were the extra compensations given to superior intellects. Can any reasonable human being ask for more than this, especially when living under a system of government that guaranteed ample support of every necessity and refinement to all under its management?

One of the strongest pleas used in favor of the existing condition of things, is that the modern reformers "would drag those of superior brain and energy down to the level of ignorant bores."

Knowing that no two human beings are exactly alike in taste and ability, and that it is impossible to equalize humanity on a common plane we are not seeking to level the higher down to the lower in a moral or intellectual sense, but rather to insure a just reward for every phase of excellence; for through all time some will be the natural peers of others. Our argument is that superior intelligence does not give us the right to prey upon the less intelligent. In 1872, in an address delivered in St. Louis, we endeavored to clearly express this view of our individual responsibility to society, as follows:—

The more highly favored by nature and fortune should consider themselves as husbandmen of God's great bounty and wisely use their superior knowledge, and wealth in directing their less favored brethren.

The machinery—where it was possible—was composed of, or coated with, a bright non-corroding metal, and the workmen were neatly clad, performing their allotted duties without the least hurry or confusion. They worked from three to five hours per day,

according to the demands of consumption ; but with this advantage, that the pay or compensation was not affected by the number of hours' work, as they were not wage-workers in the dependent sense we are on earth, for they all worked on the plan of mutual good — a perfect system of co-operation.

The blessings of improved machinery were unstintingly applied to its utmost for their mutual advantage ; while with us they become things of barter, and their uses are regulated by the selfish advantage they may give to those who chance to monopolize them ; and instead of fulfilling their beneficent purposes of good to bless all, they become a power of oppression to benefit the few at the expensive loss of the many.

The fact of performing a necessary use to the community guaranteed them a support, with ample opportunity to gratify every refined taste.

Again, we are painfully reminded of the precarious condition of all forms of labor on our planet. A fall of one-fourth of a cent per yard in the price of calico may cause the stoppage of mills and throw hundreds of thousands out of employment who depend on their daily wages for support — pay which is barely adequate to purchase even a plain subsistence for a family, without any of the refinements of life, when they are steadily employed.

Under their wise government of mutual good want was impossible, panics and failures unknown. The arbitrary despotism of money could not, with them, as it is with us, retard every phase of genius and energy from benefiting us mutually. A thing which actually performs no use in any necessary sense in production, yet arrogates to itself the right to misappropriate the beneficent bounty of the Creator.

Social elevation in modern society is principally gauged by the power of money ; it being the lever

of competitive activity, those of the lowest and most selfish instincts are most likely to accumulate it and crowd to the front of those who possess more refined and generous natures.

To present the money question logically we will put it in the form of a simple question : —

If all the money in existence was placed on or near the most arable lands, beside the minerals of the earth, or amid the timber of the forest, would a blade of cereal grow, a fruit tree bear more luscious fruit, the minerals shape themselves into machinery and implements, or the forest timber take the form of structures, and things of use and beauty, by its contact?

Emphatically no! for truly it is but an instrument of unjust power, giving unequal advantage to its possessors. It was first used to facilitate the equitable exchange of productive industries between producers themselves; as soon as it transcended this prerogative it became a power of evil and ceased to perform a necessary function in organized society.

Lycurgus, in his government of the Spartans, realized the antagonizing power of money, and instituted iron — made brittle and worthless by tempering it in vinegar — the medium of exchange.

The failure of the Spartans to extend this truly equitable value of money into general use in neighboring States was not from any fault in the system introduced by Lycurgus, but due to the fierce antagonism that existed between them. Had their development in all other respects been apace with their idea of money, then, certainly, more permanent good would have followed its use. In moral ethics they were very backward, and their highest ideal of life was to possess more physical prowess than neighboring States, and the glory of conquest was their delight.

Their treatment of the Helots, whom they held as slaves, and in order to prevent their rapid increase — fearing their strength — they put in execution an abominable law every year, called Crypta, and deliberately murdered as many as two thousand in a single night. A people that had so low an estimate of neighborly justice was not a fit example for the rest of the world to emulate, and it is not surprising that they failed to attain social success and had so few followers.

Its value — to hoard — has created all forms of usurpation, and fostered the pernicious lines of caste demarkation; the patricians and plebeians.

After all these centuries; with historical records minutely demonstrating the wars and wrongs, that in all ages have again and again been repeated as the fruits of competitive strife — we are to-day foolishly endeavoring to reconcile them with the more enlightened conception of duty now prevailing.

Attributing the cause of business depression and enforced idleness to overproduction is a fallacy, while millions are poorly fed, scantily clothed and housed in places unfit to kennel dogs in; and millions more hungering for culture and refined surroundings, but unable to gratify their legitimate desire through lack of money.

What a false system of governmental and social ethics that allows one portion of society to force the rest into idleness, to suffer for the comforts of life in the midst of the earth's abundance, because they do not deem it profitable to employ them. Good God deliver us!

While rooming near a large market and business center during one of our oft-repeated panics, when near four million men and women — in this country alone — were seeking in vain for labor to give them their daily bread — I saw cart loads of vegetables, game,

fruit and meats daily carted to the river dump — comment would be superfluous.

Under-consumption is one of the great — though not the originating — cause of panics. The origin, in fact, is the arbitrary impediments imposed by the dicta of the money power standing in the way of an equitable use of material skill and labor; for who can deny that the money in active circulation dictates the activity or idleness of all uses. The legislation of the future must harmonize production with distribution and prevent any interference with the natural rights of others, and thus prove the way for co-operative equity.

Human nature being an average in all nations under like conditions it would be senseless to wage a war against individuals. We must deal with the wrong itself and legislate away its power of trespass.

This people everywhere — we are informed — without the incentive of acquiring individual fortunes, excel us in workmanship and culture and accomplish more than we do in less than one-third the time.

In reply to the question when, and how they first adopted the co-operative plan of government? one of the superintendents replied: "At one time the majority on our planet had descended to a very low grade of selfishness — though never so absolutely the slaves of their greed as the majority on your earth are at the present time — but the higher developed minority by untiring effort finally succeeded in organizing an international association, for the purpose of reorganizing the government of all nations under one international code of laws and reciprocal interests; having in view the ultimate extinction of all national antipathies.

"Their combined action made rapid progress; and within twenty-five years by an unanimous vote in their Unitary Congress, convened to represent the interests of all nationalities; acting under the authority of their

several governments, they resolved to at once unite their interests.

"Each nation took a position as a State of a Great Planetary Union. This took place at the time your earth was illumined with the advent of the Good Man—the Great Teacher of Neighborliness and Equity—Jesus of Nazareth whom you reviled and crucified.

"Following immediately the unity of the nations was the dissolution of armies and navies and all the costly paraphernalia of arsenals, war supplies and revenue systems.

"The best business talent was selected to frame laws for and to conduct the equitable exchange of the planet's varied production; they soon demonstrated its practicability; and its unquestionable superiority over the competitive plan of non-united interests.

"The bountiful yield of all climes, and the unhampered skill of all artistic and mechanical industries were brought unstintingly to all.

"Before the planetary organization took place many measures had been tried from time to time in the different nations, but with repeated failures, and not until they had resolved to ignore all the old established precedents of government and traffic and instituted universal co-operation did they commence an era of true progress; as you will have ample opportunity to see the workings of our institutions, you can compare them with your competitive systems of arrayed interests.

"It is evident that great changes for the better are soon to transpire on your planet.

"The competitive system is summing up its ~~and~~ balance sheet.

"Competitive trade and land speculation are ~~vast~~ games of chance, with the few winners and ~~the many~~ losers.

"The successful gamblers hold the stakes and the losers are slaves of their fickle, selfish caprice; bound with cruel chains of dependence for a subsistence, infinitely worse than the chattel bodily ownership you have so recently — in part — abolished; for the competitive plan has narrowed itself to this; work toilers, if by so doing you can contribute to the store of the non-producers. Idle toilers and starve unless you make a dividend for those, who by the power of money—without labor — can even prohibit you a place to lay your head.

"The fallacy of over-production can not be much longer used as an excuse for the constantly increasing periods of enforced idleness; nor the needy be content to continue satisfied under a system that makes subsistence, for even the necessities of life, so precarious with nature's capacity to more than supply our exaggerated wants evident look where we may.

"The wheels of all your industries are being clogged to such an extent by the rapacity and uncertainties of competition that a general stoppage is imminent in the near future.

"Your best minds realize — as did ours in the past — the urgent necessities of the hour; they are devising plans to remedy existing evils, and to their guidance the oppressed must look for social and governmental reorganization."

The day's work was concluded at noon; the operatives had donned comely attire — they had dressing-rooms with baths and all the accessories of the toilet attached to every factory, workshop and warehouse. Being invited to dine at one of their hotels we took the train for the city and arrived at the Central Park — near which the hotel was situated — in five minutes. They were very refined and courteous to each other, truly dignifying labor, which they consider an honor to perform in any use of life.



They entertained us in elegant style and we were delighted with their superior, instructive discourse; for they all possessed an inexhaustible fund of sparkling wit and knowledge, for their literature was abundant and of a very superior order.

The art of printing and illustrating had attained a very high standard of excellence; and each city published one or several superbly illustrated magazines of great intellectual merit [as they had no occasion for advertisements they did not have any newspaper sheets of unwieldy shape, they were all in perfect book form, with light, but elegant covers, so that they could be preserved for future reference without being rebound.] The type was a system of sign words ingeniously adapted to rapid expression of thought — a great improvement on our system of stenography — so that one of their periodicals contained fully ten times as much reading matter as our journals of the same size, and as they did not have to purchase any of them, you can form an estimate of their superior facilities for acquiring knowledge.

Their authors and journalists were not trammelled, as ours, by sectarian and partisan prejudices and the coercive power of money. Freed from these pernicious, soul-enslaving influences they illumined their planet with a continuous glow of brilliant truths, and, apace with their higher development, had been opened revenues of research, diversified interests and a power of expression that made their literature far superior to ours.

In their school-books there was a total absence of anything that tended to cultivate a false conception of life. In marked contrast to our injudicious, *yea*, criminal practice of setting up war potentates, and successful money-getters in our school-books and historical records as examples worthy of emulation.

During the afternoon we made a thorough investigation of their efficient methods in the control of public and social affairs, and from the knowledge thus gleaned we are fully prepared to nullify the strongest objections that may be offered to universal co-operative government; and effectually dispel the illogical illusion, that "the stimulus of pecuniary profit is the main spring of our material development."

As this is the principal argument — coupled with the pointed allusion of the depravity of mankind — generally used to prove the impracticability of true co-operation; we refer all who fall back on such arguments, in support of the competitive system of strife, to the unquestioned success of M. Godin's Social Palace or Famillistiere at Onias in France, and also to the Rochdale Co-operative Association of England. Both institutions have been in operation nearly a quarter of a century, and that is a sufficient period to prove the merits or demerits of any human effort.

The entire absence of crime and the great improvement in the material condition of both of them are all the proofs needed of the superiority of the government of mutual interests over that of isolated selfish endeavor.

In the evening we attended a musical jubilee at the Grand Temple, dedicated to art. It was a very imposing structure, richly adorned exteriorly, and its interior finished in the highest style of decorative art.

The stage was elegant, roomy and thoroughly equipped in all of its appointments, and perfectly fire-proof. The scenery worked by ingenious mechanism, susceptible of very rapid changes. There were over one hundred performers of the highest order of talent, and for three hours we enjoyed a feast of fine acting and delightful harmonies.

During an intermission, elegantly dressed young

men served the audience with refreshments — placed on ornamental folding stands attached to each seat.

At the conclusion of the performance we walked leisurely to our hotels, and very loth to separate from my guide, bid her good-night.

Wending to the quarters assigned me for the night, retired, and fell asleep whilst musing on the many pleasing incidents of the day.

Arose at sunrise, called for my guide and had a pleasant walk in the park, then went to breakfast, which occupied nearly an hour, as they made the morning meal an occasion of intellectual as well as bodily nourishment ; for the morning, with its freshness following repose, is the soul's fittest opportunity to sparkle.

From the breakfast room to a spacious balcony had gathered most of the guests, and soon after, while in pleasant conversation, sweet strains of music and an unusual stir attracted our attention to the street. We were informed that it was a wedding festival.

THE FESTIVAL.

As they were passing by fair Edith * said :
“ We'll go with them and see a couple wed.
Our marriage rites are interesting here ;
We understand the laws of mating clear.”

The bride and groom in mimic traces led,
Composed of wreaths, and cords of golden thread :
Beneath a canopy of rich design,
Of brightest silk, and frame superbly fine.

* The name of my guide.



Bridesmaids, so fair, and groomsmen, full a score,
On gilded poles the gorgeous shelter bore;
And holding silver tasseled cords, beside,
Sweet elf-lite maidens gaily tripped each side.

Damsels in purest white, all wreathed with flowers,
Walked in the glow of artificial bowers
Borne by young men, whose happy smiles portrayed
The cheerful task performed for every maid.

With silver shields, dresses of azure blue,
Girls walked each side, as emblems of the true ;
And boys with flags, waving in perfect time,
As outside escort fringed the scene, so fine.

Four splendid bands made music on the way ;
Two at a time the same sweet tune would play ;
And at a given signal all, along the line,
Would sing in chorus, in most perfect time.

No jarring babel, as when different tunes,
Discordant played-in-line — by worldly luns ;
In this, as in all things this people do,
A perfect order carried all things through.

[In pairing there no youth or maid is sold
By social caste, or tempting lust of gold.
Nor fear of want and unrequited toil
Could tempt them there their better natures soil.]

Thousands to see, and wish the pair good cheer,
From 'bout the town, in groups, had gathered near ;
And formed in line, in places on the way,
With banners waving and cut flowers to spray.

We reach a temple, of the purest white,
Fine polished marble, built so gracefully light ;
With glittering domes, resplendent in their sheen
As sparkling gems reflecting brightest gleam.

Set in a park, so pleasing to the sight,
Nor Paradise yet pictured half so bright ;
Rich beds of flowers, grottoes, groves and lawns,
And sparkling lakes with boats and graceful swans.

Rich carvings, and gems of the sculptor's art
Profusely decked, with beauty, every part,
And spacious collonades inviting shade
A fitting trysting place, for lovers, made.

The inside was most exquisitely fine ;
A sight to e'en our finest tastes refine ;
The floors a marvel of Mosaic skill,
And richly rug'd, to noisy footsteps still.

The wedding party, in most graceful file,
To thrilling march went through the spacious aisle,
To a grand stage, in clearest view of all
Assembled in the wisely finished hall.

[Their public buildings are so well arranged
For sight and sound, that none can be estranged.
The choicest seats on Venus never sold
To those whose greatest merit is their gold.

Nor ever there the souls in starving pain,
Longing to sate their nobler tastes in vain ;
With needy teachers idle, forced to cower ;
Chance hirelings of a soulless money power.]

The pair led 'neath a canopy, so bright,
Of silk and gold, and gems prismatic light ;
The escort 'round in semi-circle drew ;
A background formed of grace and brightest hue.

A noble sage, the pastor of the fold,
Placed over them a net of lace wrought gold;
Bid them join hands, then he to all declared
The happy, graceful couple fitly paired.

In this brief form the wedded pair addressed :

“ May all your days with happiness be blessed ;
The souls all freed from passion’s base alloy
Will reap the fullest meed of every joy.

“ Pure love is not as fickle flame of fire,
That fiercely burns” aflame, then flickering dies ;
A force unbridled, flushing, but to tire ;
Mere sensual passion in deceiving guise.

“ ’Tis master force that rules Creation’s kind
With generous thought and aid to high resolve ;
All source of good, expanding human mind ;
The Central Sun ’round which we all revolve.

“ Man’s baser passions by its power
Are felled, and rising in their stead
The nobler virtues, conquering tower,
A giant growth of generous spread.

“ Love like a pure and crystal stream
With even glide unceasing flows
’Mid fertile banks, with beauteous gleam,
Reflecting all its good bestows.”

The compact sealed with chastely kiss, the pair
Were placed in charge of youths and maiden fair,
Seated in chairs, more gorgeous than thrones,
Of pearl inlaid with gold and precious stones.

The young attendants, full of mirthful play,
Marched 'round them in a very pleasing way ;
Sweet music's strains ; the vast assembled throng
All joined in thrilling swell, in this brief song :

“ Man's understanding ; woman's will
United life's great laws fulfill ;
Divinest power ; Great Source of life,
Now blend as one this man and wife.”

The rites at end, they formed in line again,
Marched to the park singing a sweet refrain ;
Then seated 'neath the most enchanting bowers
The feast was served 'midst Paradise of flowers.

And such the fruit of the wise people's toil ;
There all for mutual good, no greed to soil
Their finer tastes, or war ; there all could fill
The soul replete with harvests of best skill.

Their merry-making put all care to flight,
With pleasing vary well into the night ;
And then to make the festival end well
The wedded pair were led to their hotel.

The laws governing the relations of the sexes were developed to an absolute science ; so intelligently understood, as to make it almost impossible for any to mismatch.

How infinitely superior to the unscientific systems on our planet, corrupting public morals, and conveying the inference that statutory absurdities are of greater importance than the moral and physiological welfare of humanity.

The whole procedure of legal divorce hinged on a

fallow system of extortion for the benefit of licensed vampires.

We arose early the following morning, intent on gaining all possible knowledge of this progressive people.

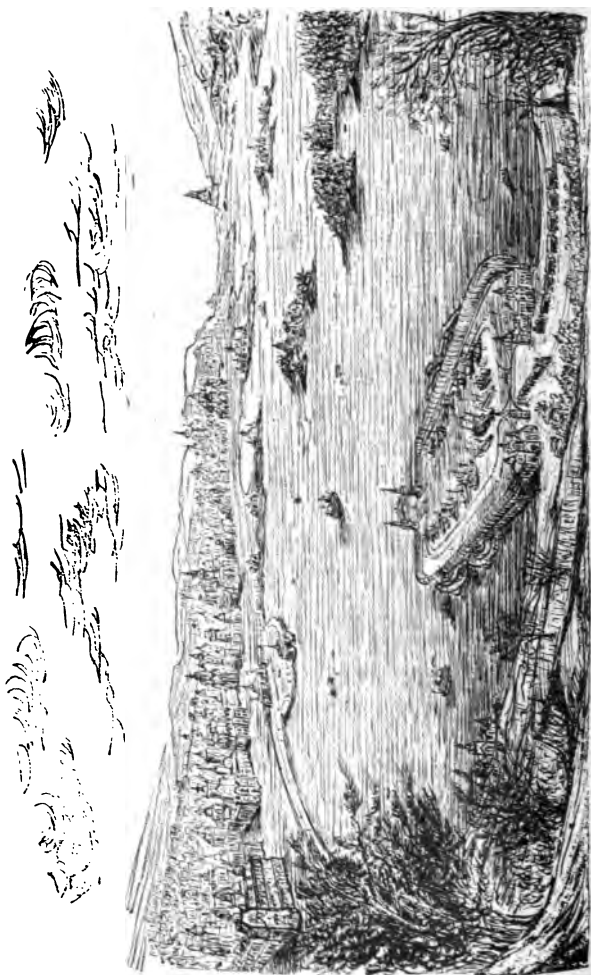
After partaking of an early repast we boarded a graceful motor-yacht and had a pleasant trip about the picturesque harbor. All the commanding points—usually occupied with fortifications, bristling with implements of destruction, on our earth—were adorned with parks and beautiful buildings, the pleasure resorts of the citizens and the many tourists who visited there. While gazing on the beautiful scenery, and the wise uses made of everything by this people, we could not keep back the painful reflection of the criminal waste of material and labor in the maintenance of our armies and costly coast defenses. How long will the masses continue blind to their real interests and through a mistaken sense of patriotism so abjectly serve and praise the dynasties that enslave them?

We returned to shore refreshed by the morning sea breeze and ate breakfast with appreciative zest. As we had a few hours to spare before embarking, we inspected the wonderful Dock Harbor, a splendid work of advanced engineering skill.

The wharves were constructed of massive blocks of granite, with slips to suit the various styles of shipping, and all were supplied with metallic cradles—worked by hydraulic power—capable of lifting a vessel out of the water, for examination or repairs, in a few minutes.

The water in the docks was not allowed to remain long enough to become stagnant; they were frequently drained and thoroughly cleaned—each vessel at the time—resting level and secure on its cradle. Where the rise and fall of the tide was not sufficient to admit of it the docks were built above the level of the sea

and filled from reservoirs or adjacent rivers, or with ample pumping power to fill them in a few hours; the water was taken from the sea.



A double track extended around the docks, with a switch leading to each slip (see diagram); the cars had electric motors and all could be operated separately;

and the cargoes were loaded and unloaded directly to and from the ship to them, and were never deposited on the docks, as all the cars were directly connected with a perfect warehouse system, adjacent to, or adjoining the manufactories.

The docks were situated so as not to obstruct the view of the splendid harbor and the sea from the city; and beside they were used as a pleasure resort; for on their outer side, from one entrance to the other, was an elevated and broad promenade, with folding awnings, on ornamental frames.

This was a much frequented resort, as it afforded a fine view of the city, surrounding country and sea; and besides, four immense bathing houses, one for males and one for females, were built on the outer part of each side of the dock (see diagram). They were fitted with the most convenient arrangements; and being in the form of a semi-circle, with windows on the seaside, the light penetrated every part where it was desirable. At night they were illuminated with electric lights.

There was a swimming-room, besides numerous private baths. By an ingenious arrangement for heating, they could regulate the temperature of the water and insure a comfortable bath at all seasons of the year.

Under their wise administration of mutual government, as soon as they conceived anything necessary for their happiness, they at once applied skill and labor to the material to fill the want; unrestricted by lack of means to purchase, or power of individual possession over the natural resources of the earth, as we are in all our so-styled civilized nations.

Leaving the interesting place, we were conducted to an aerial transportation depot and took a flying trip to an island ten miles from the shore. The aerial car was very strong, though built of the lightest framework of tube metal and covered with a very thin, tough metal,

weighing much less than any other material, insuring equal strength. The machine was run by two electric motors, a steady, powerful and rapid motion, which revolved the dozen fan-like wings. By a perfect steering apparatus it could be guided at will in any direction, and even with a greater velocity than an ordinary gale. It was so contrived that if an accident happened to the machinery the rapid descent of the vessel would force the air through projecting places on the sides into a set of parachutes and cause them to unfold, making it impossible for the air ship to descend rapid enough to endanger life.

We made the trip to the island and back, including a stoppage there of half an hour, in fifty minutes alighting at the depot we repaired to the hotel for dinner; my guide had been constantly with me since morning and made the sight-seeing far more interesting with her instructive discourse.

Soon after dinner we bid our new and generous friends farewell and went on shipboard. In half an hour we passed through the dock gates under a beautifully constructed bridge, for the use of persons desirous of crossing from one pier to the other. It was supported between two symmetrical electric light towers, each containing four elevators. The official barge kept us company as far as the light-house at the entrance of the harbor, their fine band discoursing sweet music to cheer our departure. They returned to shore and we sped out on the ocean, sighing with pleasurable regret as the beautiful shore diminished in the distance.

As we were well out of sight of land and there was nothing of unusual interest to be seen from the deck, and the rapidly increasing speed of the vessel had induced the passengers and crew to seek the shelter of cabins and lookout houses, we entered the main saloon,

and being introduced to a beautiful matron of superior intelligence, were soon interested listeners to her instructive discourse. At our request she gave an outline of the spiritual belief on the planet—they had but one. The following is a brief synopsis of her remarks:—

“Our religion is reverence of Supreme Creative Power, and just dealing with each other.

“Our relation to the world is as a child’s relation to its parents, for in a true sense we are but children of the universe.

“It is a part of the economy of Nature that those who look up to and aspire to attain to ideals above them are correspondingly more highly developed.

“True religion is inseparable from human progress.

“All human beings are, according to condition, centripetal centers into which, according to their receptiveness, spiritual intelligence—the *esse* of all life—descend; and we are in keeping with our development, the centrifugal mediums radiating them to lesser intelligences.

“Or to frame it in language that may be better understood by the masses: as our baser natures come under the subjection of moral restraint we are in the same ratio drawn nearer the Deific or Spiritual Source of Life, and with a corresponding power to reflect the true and beautiful.

“We see this beautifully illustrated in the bright colors and sweet aroma of flowers, and their marked superiority over the rank weeds: Flowers are the physical expression, of the higher and weeds the type of the lower conditions of life; and even atmospheric changes correspond to our spiritual conditions.

“Our thoughts, according to their quality, are soul builders for good or evil, and the conditions resulting

therefrom are our heavens or hells in this life and the hereafter.

"Knowing that we compensate for every violation of moral and physical law we endeavor to obey them, living up to our highest conception of duty, without being confirmed in any form of dogma, for the wisest among us have, as yet, with their far-reaching research, but glimpsed the outline of the first letter in the alphabet of Nature."

The remainder of the evening was pleasantly occupied in conversation, vocal and instrumental music by talented artists, who were on a professional tour of the planet.

We retired early; when called at daybreak land was in sight; we soon entered an extensive, finely sheltered harbor, and lo! a tropic scene in all its gorgeous wealth of fruit and foliage.

There is an irresistible charm about warm climates to those who come from colder latitudes, the scenery is so widely different that it has a charming novelty to the admirers of the beautiful in nature. Art had embellished the landscape with fine villas and extensive parks, dotted with bright colored pavilions, which were glistening in the golden sunlight and beautifully mirrored in the water; and the air was laden with delicious fragrance of fruits and flowers.

We were saluted by a gorgeous display of flags, of beautiful tints and designs, on the prominent buildings and the shipping in the harbor; our ship was soon decked from stem to stern with gay bunting in response to the cheerful welcome.

A variety of graceful row boats and swift sailing motor yachts, painted in bright colors, richly carved and gilded and their decks shaded with beautiful silk awnings, were moving about the harbor; quite a number of them formed in line on each side of our vessel



to escort our passage through the harbor. We landed at a fine pier a short distance from the city and rode to the Central Hotel, kept especially for visitors.

The city was built in the form of a Crescent, conforming to the shape of one side of the harbor; a broad esplanade on the water front extended all around the harbor; it was covered with bright striped awnings; sparkling fountains, elegant refreshment pavilions and commodious seats were conveniently arranged at suitable distances. A beautiful shell-tinted beach sloped gradually from the esplanade to the water's edge, and several artificially constructed ponds afforded the young folks nice enjoyment sailing their numerous fleets of miniature boats.

The promenade was alive with people, for they came there during the cool of morning and evening to enjoy pleasant social intercourse and the invigorating sea breeze. On our planet the same space would either be monopolized by ungainly wharves and buildings, or a combination of traffic, disorder and filth.

The chief industries of the citizens are sorting and packing the various products of their section for shipment to other parts, per order of the central bureau, and receiving and distributing the productions of other sections throughout their district. The work is done — as is imperative everywhere on the planet — several miles from the city and directly back of the shipping wharves, which are on the opposite side of the harbor. They were a highly cultured people and excelled in many branches of artistic work.

All out-door uses were performed between 6 and 9 a. m., and in-door or sheltered occupations from 7 to 11 a. m. The remainder of their time was at their own disposal, yet there was no sign of dissipation. During the active labor they produced more than sufficient for all demands of exchange and home consumption.

They took equally as much, if not more, pleasure in producing for other sections, as they did for themselves, knowing that all the other sections were as cheerfully working for and interested in them in return. Life was not the least monotonous, for we were informed that all on the planet performing a necessary use had a vacation each year, with an allotted mileage of transportation, and if not used at the time was placed to their credit and added to other vacations; many availed themselves of this privilege and made an extended trip or a complete tour of the planet every few years, which could be accomplished in a short time with their abundant facilities for rapid transit. These, as all other liberal enjoyments of the people, are subject to strict principles of order. Those who are beyond the age allotted for active use, the invalids and the children of parents entitled to a vacation, are allowed the same privilege. All the conveniences of life are provided for them while traveling on all parts of the planet.*

They all could travel over sea and land,
On ships and cars, upon a scale most grand,
All built for speed and comfort so secure,
That passengers had naught unpleasant to endure.

The routes were many, yet so well controlled
That every clime their good to all unfold,
Conveyed with ease, from places wide apart,
To promptly furnish all their fullest part.

* How infinitely better than the condition of millions of industrious toilers on our planet, who, clinging to their small pay, cannot even visit a sick or dying relative, if at any distance, for want of a little money. This is no exaggerated picture, for the author has witnessed in his practice hundreds of such cases, and even been in the same predicament, so that he could not get across the States to visit an only sister on her death-bed, whom he had not seen for a quarter of a century.

And thus the products, in most ample store,
Blessed all alike ; no contrasts rich and poor ;
No question raised, what this or that will bring,
Exchange of uses settled everything.

Nor niggard fare, they every want could fill
Without the use of silver, gold or bill.
We Nature's gifts allow to rot in store ;
No means to purchase 'mong the worthy poor.

Nor ever there were seen the poorly clad
Lean forms ; faces by pinching want made sad ;
Doubting almost the right to breathe the air
Where fashion glistens and all look so fair.

And in our greed to selfish strife as prone
As hungry dogs contending for a bone :
Throughout the ages reached no higher plain
Than keeping good from others for our gain.

The streets of the interesting city were very wide, with a shaded walk in the center of each—the trees on either side, meeting at the top, making them delightful promenades. Motor cars ran on each side of the shaded walk, and tastefully arranged flower beds, fountains, statuary, summer-houses, shrubbery and trees adorned the public buildings and elegant dwellings.

After the noon meal we visited several fruit, coffee, spice and rice plantations. The lands were tilled with very improved agricultural implements, and the operators wore adjustable sun-shields, which were attached to the shoulders and could be placed at any angle to protect them from the sun.

The country was well equipped with motor roads,

public highways, aerial vessels, reservoirs and aqueducts for irrigation, and the manifold details that enhance use and comfort.

We returned to the hotel, enjoyed a rest in hammocks suspended on a cool balcony, then took a refreshing bath, attended to our toilet, partook of a light repast and attended an outdoor theatrical entertainment, which commenced at sunset and was uninterruptedly continued from beginning to end — even the fine music was conducted on the stage as a part of the drama — which continued until ten o'clock. The seats were admirably arranged beneath vine-covered arbors, lit with a brilliant, yet soft, electric light; the chandeliers were artistically arranged so as to produce a fine effect on the statuary and beautiful plants that so liberally adorned the grounds, and the sweet aroma of flowers and tropical fruits, and the large assemblage of beauty, made the scene most enchanting. At its close we walked leisurely to the hotel; my guide conversed with an interesting and superior power that called into activity all the best qualities of those that heard her; it was impossible to be frivolous or weakly sentimental in her presence — a nature that commanded the earnest attention and the sincere respect of all. Arriving at our quarters she bid me good night and retired.

I was conducted to an elegant chamber, unique in all its appointments; in the center was a pond with aquatic plants, and a fountain which imparted a pleasant cooling influence to the temperature of the room. After a refreshing night's rest, I arose early, took the customary baptism, dressed in a clean suit of light clothing — principally composed of silk — thoughtfully placed at my disposal, partook of a refreshing fruit drink and joined my guide in a walk on the Esplanade, where many had already gathered to enjoy the pleasant morning air.

Boats of light and elegant finish were soon seen rowing and sailing about the harbor in every direction, and with a fine palace-like vessel, which had just arrived, made a very animated and interesting scene.

While contemplating the exceeding beauty of the surroundings, and reflecting on the evidences of the marked superiority of their civilization over ours, we were saddened with the consciousness that Nature is equally lavish with her resources to our planet, but owing to our blind selfishness we prevent them from being applied for our mutual good.

We remained there for an hour and a half, and the sun's rays becoming too warm for the unacclimated we returned to the hotel, and were sumptuously feasted at a farewell entertainment. We were informed that "the absolute cost of the luxurious meal was only equivalent to the time of its consumption," so expert and systematically they managed production and distribution. One of their statisticians remarked, in reply to my question how they provided against the contingencies of bad crops, epidemics, etc.: "Each section makes ample provision for one year's extra storage in warehouses especially constructed so as to insure immunity from decay. We can keep even the most destructible kinds of fruit, vegetables and cereals for years, so expert have we become in chemistry; and as we eat no animal food — knowing it to be injurious to both mind and body — you can realize how little we have to apprehend from such mishaps; besides, as the unusual disorders in the atmosphere — sufficient to produce failure of crops or to germinate diseases — are due to emanations from the evils of the highest — Cosmic — type — ~~un-~~ kind, they will be less frequent as we become ~~morally~~ developed." Some of the representatives of the ~~planet~~ stated "they realized this truth, and had ~~learned~~ the responsibility for the seeming disorders of ~~the~~ ~~planet~~."

where it belonged — with themselves, instead of the vengeance of the Great Supreme Ruler of the Universe.”

All the representatives from other planets being present a carefully devised system of sign language — for planetary intercourse — was presented and approved, and certain plateaus were to be allotted on each planet for that purpose. With their improved telescopic and photographic instruments they could easily discern the sign signals and send them from one planet to the other, according to their relative positions. They hoped to derive great gain from this, as all would have an opportunity to at once avail themselves of the most advanced thought.

At ten o'clock we were escorted on board, bidden a kind farewell, and we sailed away from their lovely clime.

It would be difficult to find a more pleasing company than we had this passage. Indeed it seemed as if the balmy influence of the climate had impressed all on board; awakening all the genial qualities of the soul to an expression as liberal and beautiful as the gorgeous wealth of rich foliage so liberally nourished in its warmth.

The passage occupied forty-eight hours, including stoppages at several interesting islands, famous for their fruits and spices. A line of ships made regular trips to them from all the principal ports on the planet — they as all others being under the control of the Central Distributing Bureau — supplying them with an adequate share of the arts and productive industries of all other sections, and transporting from the islands the luscious fruits and spices to meet the demands of reciprocal exchange. The contemptible question of profit, in form of pecuniary dividends, never interfered with the orderly handling of production between pro-

ducers and consumers; all were jointly benefited; injustice was impossible and panics unknown.

On the islands, as elsewhere on the planet in agricultural districts, the buildings were grouped in hamlets, to each division of land five miles square, and as near its center as convenient—generally the buildings were on the hotel plan, with schools, libraries, places of amusement, etc.

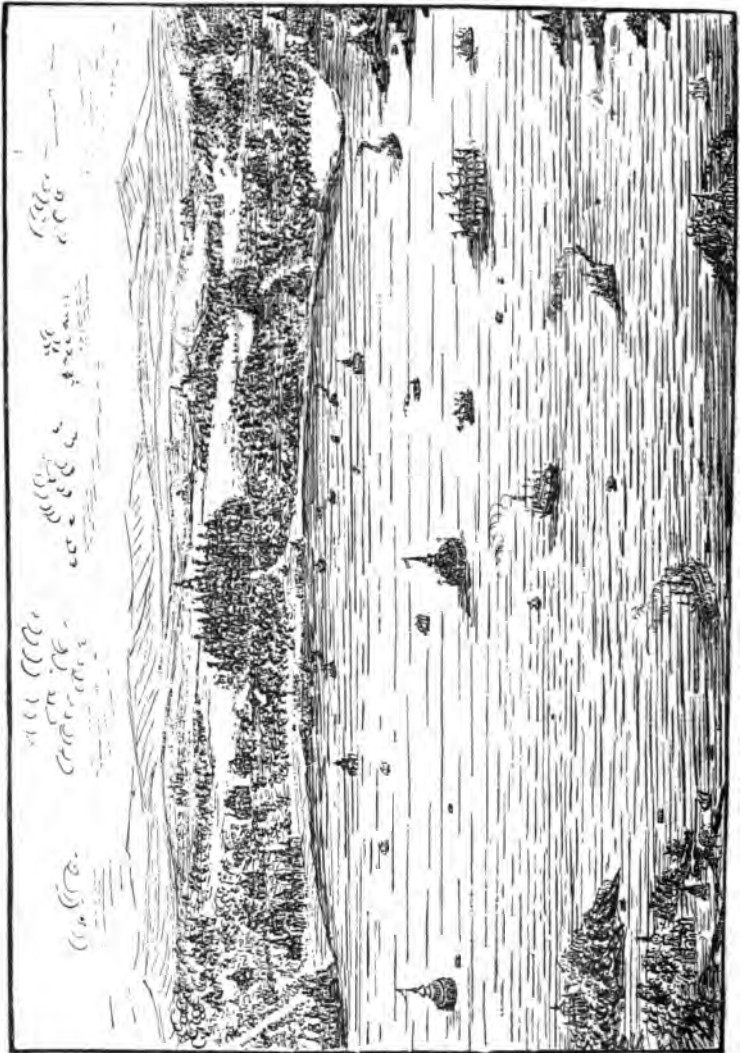
Besides the local talent, there were district lecturers, actors, musicians and singers who visited all within a certain district or group of islands; as they could exchange—if they desired—with the talent of other sections they enjoyed advantages of social refinement and co-operative effort almost equal to the cities; and rural life was relieved of its greatest objections, solitude and want of diversion from monotonous routine.

Soon after daylight, the third day of our passage, we entered an archipelago which extended to the Central Capital—distant one hundred miles. It was a much frequented passage way, all parts of the planet being represented in the various styles of marine architecture. Each side of the islands formed a channel, and through the spaces between them we could see the vessels going in the opposite direction. Our speed had been slackened to a moderate pace and for six hours we enjoyed a series of delightful, changing marine and shore views.

It was eleven o'clock when we entered the Great Central Harbor of Venus. The city was picturesquely situated on one side, on a gentle slope, which gradually undulated for miles to a background of hills dimly outlined in the distance.

Directly across from the city were finely constructed docks for the shipping, a few miles back of them were located quite a number of extensive warehouses and back of these again the manufactories.

The government buildings — which embraced the heads of departments representing all the manifold



interests of the planet — surrounding the Central Legislative Assembly in the form of three circles, were located

midway between the city and the docks, at the termination of a park avenue one thousand feet wide — extending back — at a right angle — a mile from the beautiful esplanade which fringed the entire shore of the harbor.

There were six ornamental metal pavilions, each capable of accommodating several hundred people, orderly arranged some distance from the shore, their foundations securely fastened to the bottom of the harbor. They were used as pleasure resorts, and augmented the beauty of the scenery of this wonderful port.

The official barge came alongside, and after a very cordial greeting we accompanied the committee of reception to the city, and our fine ship moved to the docks.

On landing we were taken directly to a magnificent hotel and shown to elegant rooms, with every accessory of the toilet, which we made good use of, in the endeavor to be presentable to this truly refined people.

They semi-annually received the representatives of the planetary sections and all visiting strangers with a public banquet, and we were cordially invited to participate in the festivities.. It was apparent that the legislators present represented the cream of this highly intelligent people, yet there was an entire absence of the peacock-like attributes, so common to nearly all the dignitaries of our planet, most of whom owe their positions to the power of money, or the questionable choice of political caucuses, made up of the worst social elements, instead of any particular fitness for the positions or moral excellence they possess. They were very courteous, and conversed freely with the visitors, replying with pleasure to the numerous questions asked them about the sections and interests they represented.

After dinner we made a tour of inspection of *this*

famous center of equity, anxious to learn how they managed their manifold planetary interests in such an expeditious and orderly manner — for we are pained to acknowledge, that the numerous arguments used in favor of the incentive of competition as a progressive civilizer had somewhat dwarfed our capacity to judge fairly, without having sufficient proofs to the contrary.

My guide, with a superior soul-reading discernment, had read my inmost thought, and before I had time to frame a question, spoke as follows: "All manifestations of the spiritual and physical are subject to fixed laws of evolution, and we comprehend truths in direct ratio with our moral progress; many of, even superior, worldly intelligence are yet morally incapable of realizing that which to those more highly developed spiritually is perfectly clear. These differences in moral progress account for the many crude arguments used on your planet in opposition to the few who truthfully teach the true principle of co-operative government.

"It would be very unreasonable to expect those who have not sufficiently evolved out of their conditions of selfishness to have a proper conception of justice; Even the educated, who have been matured in such an atmosphere, manifest more concern for their narrow conception of the rights of property than for the real principles of equity involved.

"Although you have made great progress in the sciences and education, your moral development has not kept pace with them. We term this a perversion of intelligences. In proof of what I say, nearly all reforms for the betterment of your world originate with those who have enjoyed the fewest opportunities; while those who should lead — by their education and social advantages — are the most backward in reformatory measures. Do not allow such obstacles to discourage and make you falter in good work, for the

more faithfully you advocate the truth the sooner will its light dissipate the clouds which obscure the moral vision of others, for the CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNMENT of MANKIND in its ENTIRETY is the true and practical law of life."

The city was laid out with very broad avenues, none less than two hundred feet in width, and divided into sections composed of twenty blocks; each block contained nine very ornate buildings—see diagram. All had accommodations for one hundred single, or fifty married people. As strange as it may appear, they had but two children—a boy and girl—in each family. The blocks were uniform in style and complete in themselves, but every style of exquisite architecture prevailed throughout the city.

In the center of each block was an ornate structure— included as one of the nine mentioned above—which contained a nursery, gymnasium, laundry and two sets of engines to run the elevators, electric lights, furnish heat, etc., and the cooking was also done there for the whole block. This center building was connected with all the block by covered walks and conveniences for the speedy carriage of food, etc., to and from each hotel. The occupants enjoyed all the conveniences of hotel or private living with very little labor; thus avoiding the criminal waste of time, energy and material entailed by our system of separate housekeeping."

Five blocks of each section were laid out in a park, which contained the schools, places of amusement, hotel for visitors, and an office for the regulation of the uses apportioned to the section and for the orderly supply of all their needs. As there were fifty sections in all in the city, each having accommodations for twelve thousand people, the whole population was in the neighborhood of six hundred thousand.

The system of sewerage was perfect; all the refuse, etc., was drained and burnt in the furnaces, for that purpose connected with engine-house of each block. The liquid portion of the sewage was conducted fifteen miles back of the city, there filtered, disinfected and used to enrich the soil—it was not allowed to pollute the harbors or rivers as on our planet.

Notwithstanding such a roomy, well ventilated plan, they accommodated in this superior style full as many in the same space as we do in our crowded, filthy and disorderly built cities; mainly through the hotel system of housekeeping and the abolition of gambling and drinking hells and stores for greedy barter.

The provisions, fruits, etc., were kept in warehouses—especially constructed to keep them free from taint—ten miles from the city and as near as possible directly on the opposite side from the manufactories. The cream, milk and butter were supplied directly from creameries—per order of the officer in each city district—to each block morning and evening; all other goods were delivered in the morning from six to seven o'clock.

Each block of buildings was directly connected with a branch motor railway that communicated with the sample stores, warehouses, creameries and provision districts; thus the delivery of every class of goods was effected in an orderly manner, without obstruction or unnecessary handling. Goods on Venus never rotted in stores through the power of money withholding them from the needy, through their lack of means to purchase. Truly we have followed an *ignus fatuus* in the endeavor to reconcile competitive strife with equitable government.

We were conducted through several of the buildings; the highest culture was evident in everything, and a perfect system of order prevailed everywhere,

although there was no arbitrary interference with the private affairs of individuals, unless their tendencies were evil; they deem it the height of folly to attempt to reduce the social system to a communal sameness of discipline, dress and habits; but the functions of production, distribution and all other strictly necessary uses were under government control, because experience had proved they could best be performed for the equitable good of all by the collective effort of universal co-operation; this, they claim, is the only plan by which humanity can be directed by superior intelligence to the attainment of the highest civilization.

My guide inquired "whether I thought their system was more consistent with progress than arming and supporting large bodies of police to parade about with bludgeons and pistols; the costliness of supporting criminal courts, and the building of jails and penitentiaries all in direct ratio with the increasing wealth of the few, and corresponding poverty and degradation of the many?"

"Some of your would-be planetary advisers have very contradictory methods of argumentation, completely ignoring every sound principle of logic. They ridicule as impracticable a government of universal co-operation, very authoritatively asserting that in a short period it would result in a lack of energy, a curtailment, or even the abolishment of individual freedom, and in time a lapse into semi-barbarity. Such arguments are very ill-timed while we are painfully conscious that the competitive system of property-strife and its intricate protective interests are daily increasing and forging more degraded chains for your people; even in your republic the love of gain has superseded the love of liberty and justice.

"The present concern of a majority of these volunteer guardians of the public weal savors of procrastina-

tion against the real interests of reform; more particularly as they have deferred manifesting any great interest in the general welfare, until *the issue* has been forced upon them by the very class they are now *pretending* to advise."

The planet was divided into fifty sections.

Each section into twenty-five districts.

And each district into twenty-five sub-divisions.

They were governed by elective representation as follows: All sub-divisions elected a male and female to their District Assembly; the District Assemblies elected a male and female to represent them in their respective Sectional Legislatures, and each Sectional Legislature was represented by a male and female in the Central Governing Body of the planet.

All the various business offices were filled by selections made from the districts in which they were to serve, as also were those employed in the several bureaus at the capital in the interest of their section. The appointees were chosen by Boards of Examination in each section. The rule of fit qualification was strictly observed; thus they secured the very ablest ability in every department of their admirable government.

All the sciences and arts, every phase of education, mechanics, manufactures, mining, agriculture, air, land and water transportation, harbor, river and road improvements, building, parks, telegraph, telephone and postal services, etc., had a complete system of offices in the sub-divisions, districts and sections, and they were all in direct communication with and under the management of their head bureaus connected with the Central Government of the Planet, located at the capital.

With the abolition of national lines had disappeared ministers plenipotentiary — aping the pretentious snobbery of courts, consulates, armies and navies with their

ridiculous pomp and paraphernalia, and every class of cormorants that — barnacle like — cling to every phase of our competitive system.

Although their civilization is so superior to ours, and their wants correspondingly larger, they conduct their affairs with perfect ease. It is surprising what an amount of business they do in a short time; this is mainly due to there being no conflict of interests. Everything appertaining to each use is concentrated into the simplest and most practical shape that thought and experience can devise. There are no gambling boards of trade and middle men to unnecessarily transport from vender to vender the fruits of the earth; all productions were sent direct from producers to consumer.

Exchange and legislation became easy and practical under the rule of mutual endeavor, as they had removed all selfish obstructions to the equitable use of knowledge, skill, labor and material.

The more we are isolated by selfish interests, the more complicated and vexing the distribution of production; the more painful the contrasts of wealth and poverty, the gradual increase of crime and the failure to satisfactorily govern humanity.

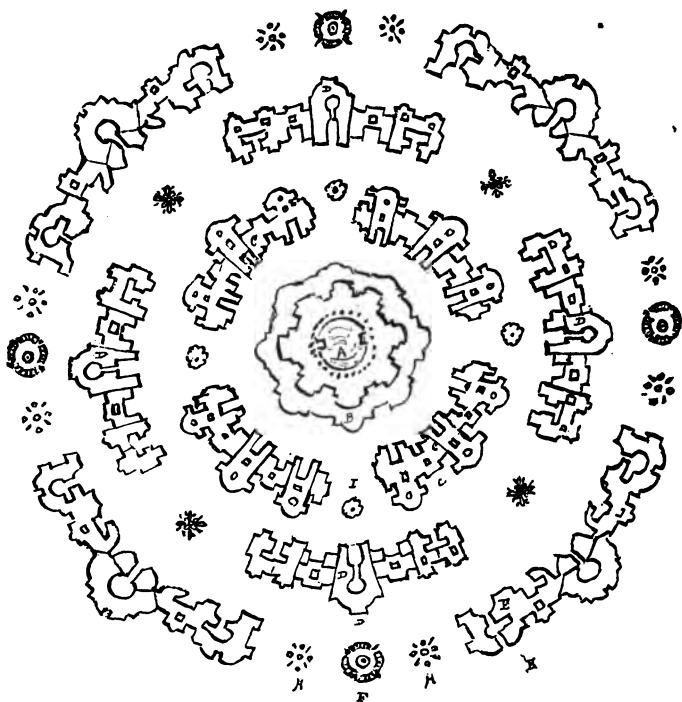
They believe in the practical religion of life and freely invite the most liberal expression on all subjects, whether spiritual, moral or governmental. [We are again painfully reminded of the disguised cunning that would dwarf truth to the narrow boundaries of creedism, or persecute and misrepresent it as is too common in modern society: a fearful error, for it tends to rob us of all manly attributes, and make us time-serving Pharisees.]

The adoption of one language had proved an important factor in dissolving away national and sectional prejudices and their inevitable tendency to strife; and

was one of the most important steps that led to this Universal Brotherhood.

Their wise plain of government did away with all the corrupting influence of office-seeking; they had rid themselves of dishonest demagoguery, and only those best fitted for the work were chosen for leadership in any department; and it was impossible for the coarse and selfish to force themselves into prominent positions.

After dinner we visited the Bureau Departments, where all the affairs of the planet were controlled in a perfect and expeditious manner.



A. Central Assembly.

B. Executive Heads of Departments.

1st Circle. Bureaus of Education, Production, Distribution, Postal, Telephone and Telegraph.

2d Circle. Mechanical Department, Engineering, Architecture, Construction, Mining, Hotels and Laborers Uses.

3d Circle. Bureaus of Agriculture, Horticulture, Parks, Gardening, Aerial and Land Transportation, Harbor River and Ocean Services.

We first inspected the Sciences, Arts and Educational Departments, all under the one Board of Management. This, as all the other departments, were in complete telegraph, telephone and postal communication with every section of the planet, and as the sections were also in complete connection with all of their districts and the districts in turn connected with their subdivisions, the intercourse with all parts was thorough and rapid. From there we went through the Telegraph, Telephone and Postal Departments, also under one management; and the center from which radiated all the lines over the planet. The Bureau of Production and Distribution were the most interesting to us, for all the material wants of the planet were dependent on their efficient management. Reader, my description will fail to convey a conception of their business capacity and wonderful order; they were two immense three-story structures; each floor devoted to the following uses: In the Bureau of Production the third floor was the Statistical Department, with six clerks for each section of the planet. They kept an accurate record of the production of every section. On the second floor there were the same number of clerks to regulate the management of productive industry in each section. On the first floor were located the telegraph and telephone operators and Executive Board of Production; fifty members in all; one from each section.

The Bureau of Distribution was on the same plan, and employed the same number of clerks and managers — this completed the first circle. Crossing the broad park circle, 500 feet wide, we entered the Bureaus of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Construction, occupying one of the four immense structures in the second circle. There were five hundred draughtsmen, five hundred clerks and a competent board of man-

agers to each department. Similar buildings, one for the Bureau of Hotels and Mining, and two for the Bureaus of Mechanical and Laborious Industries, completed the second circle. Another park circle 500 feet wide intervened between this and the third circle, in which were located the Bureaus of Agriculture, Forests, Horticulture, Parks, Gardens, Aerial and Land Transportation and the Harbor, River and Ocean Services, all had an efficient complement of managers and clerks and even the minutest details of every section of the planet was fully known and under their efficient control. The buildings presented the most magnificent spectacle imaginable, and their arrangement in the form of three circles, one within the other, truly typified the harmony which they represented. Our interesting inspection concluded about four o'clock and we walked down the lovely flower-blooming avenue to the harbor and boarded a graceful row-boat, painted in purple and white, and richly embossed with gold. The seats were richly cushioned, and a bright silken canopy afforded comfortable shade. The boat was rowed by eight sprightly young men, dressed in bright uniforms tastefully in keeping with the color of the boat, and well adapted for comfort and rowing—we were taken to all important points around the immense harbor, and remained some time on the beautiful islands in pleasant converse with their occupants, who are mainly engaged in fruit and flower culture and keeping in order the beautiful pleasure resorts on the islands for the use of the citizens and visitors.

As soon as it was dark we were rowed toward the center of the harbor to witness the annual festivities and illumination in honor of the planet's representatives.

At a preconcerted signal millions of electric lights, forming beautiful architectural designs, tableaux and

motatoes in every conceivable shape and color, flashed their brilliancy from the town and harbor; and at regular intervals there were lavish displays of fireworks.

Wire cables were stretched between the metal pavilions—before referred to—on which were arranged bright colored lights forming continuous archways and through these passed the gaily illuminated barges, gondolas, motor and row boats in procession; some of them containing fine music, who at a given signal all played the same tunes, in concert with bands stationed on the pavilions, wafting sweet melody far and near.

We enjoyed the beautiful scene until it closed, then were rowed to shore and bidding our pleasant crew good-night; escorted my guide to her hotel; sought my apartments and retired. Blessed sleep—when angel messengers close eyelids down to reinvigorate the soul—unconscious rest till morn.

We arose early and joined the visitors assembled in the park surrounding our hotels, where we were greeted by a bevy of youths and maidens, who presented us with beautiful bouquets and invited us to ride in motor carriages. We were taken along the beautiful esplanade that skirted the harbor—twelve miles in extent. it was an enjoyable ride and the views from the entrance of the harbor were superb; at eight o'clock we returned and ate breakfast with the representatives of Venus, and those who, like myself, had come from other planets seeking more knowledge of the way of life. We were entertained in most regal style; yet with such an absence of protruding formality, that we were perfectly at ease in the presence of so many superior intellects. Sweet music, from hidden performers was played during the meal, with sounds modulated so as not to interfere with the conversation of the company. They never hurried at their meals, but made them enjoyable, social gatherings, sparkling with wit and wisdom.

They were very highly developed and courteous, and a considerate regard for the feelings and rights of others pervaded all their intercourse with each other.

In answer to my expressions of pleasurable astonishment, witnessing a condition of life so superior to ours in everything, my guide said: "Here any manifestations of selfishness and ill temper are classed in the same category as crimes, which are considered and treated as mental diseases, and every possible means exercised to induce wrong-doers to do better, and restrain them from doing evil; your penal codes are very barbarous, and more calculated to foster, than to eradicate crime. Seemingly, nearly everything done on your planet is at cross purposes; but certainly very fittingly in keeping with the greedy contentions of the competitive system which you will have to abolish before you can obtain any semblance of social harmony."

In response to my query, if it is possible with all the conflicting elements, as they now exist on earth to even inaugurate a civilization like theirs, she replied:—

"Yes, a beginning is practicable, provided you commence building on a truer foundation than the one on which your present superstructure now rests.

"The world must be dealt with as a family on a larger scale; the higher developed, like parents in a household, must in a spirit of true benevolence take control of governments; by a judicious leadership of the masses they can soon oust all the vampires who now make your governments, with rare exceptions, nests of communal vice, and institute every necessary restraint against the power of evil; but truly you will have to build a new ship of state, typifying impartial justice. *The Trutina* is the guiding motto of governmental and social ethics.

"As long as you follow in the footsteps of past ages, so full of errors, so long may you expect to make the

same mistakes and reap the skeleton harvests of wreck and decay.

"The competitive system is false in principle and all efforts to patch its defects and adopt it to a true civilization will prove a failure, for its very inception is from the lowest hells of selfishness, and every phase of evil its product.

"You have millions on your planet fit to commence this civilization, but they need uniting so as to act in concert, for the furtherance of reforms that are dawning to your leading thinkers. Come with us to the Central Assembly and see how much easier we dispatch our affairs on the Mutual Co-operative Plan than you do yours on the Competitive Isolated Interests Method."

Whilst on the way to the Assembly Building, reflecting on their marked superiority and fully realizing the Herculean task we had to perform before we could obtain even a semblance of their good government.

My fair instructor again divining my thought said : "Co-operation on your planet will soon become the all absorbing issue in two, and perhaps three great nations who will gradually unite their interests by introducing reciprocal interchange of each others surplus productions, and in time they will bring other nations into the same system without the exercise of brute force.

"All governments that have proven failures have had false basic principles of rule, and had they been properly founded would not have gone to ruin ; for a contradiction of this natural law is an impossibility : Truth is continuously self-propagative, when we act in accord with it, and as surely are all our efforts destructive, self-annihilating when we oppose its mandates.

"We know that you possess great knowledge on your planet, but you pervert it to selfish ends ; therefore, we are not surprised to see such poor results from your creeds and philosophies, for you expend more

energy expounding them than in their practical application to the affairs of life, which is the true test of religious teaching.

We could not negative her remarks, for during the past thirty-five years we have been brought into intimate association with almost all phases of ism and philosophy, and have noticed that the more stress laid on doctrinal points, or the more claimed for one particular sect or philosophy over others, invariably the least good resulted to society therefrom. Their inconsistency is the more palpable when we see them manifest so little concern for the ill conditions of misery and sin that obtain from competitive commerce and the tyranny of money: The origin of nearly every clime that exist in the world could directly or indirectly be attributed to them. Is it any wonder that every effort of reform calculated to correct the abuses that exist meet with antagonism and ridicule in proportion as they approach the cause of existing evils, thereby endangering the selfish interests of those who desire to retain an unfair advantage in the world? Thus we are forced by the very masses who are to be benefited; who unfortunately are blindly led by their designing enslavers, on the one hand, and those in power on the other. My guide, noticing my despondent mood, said: "You are beset with obstacles in your work, and although so seemingly discouraging the outlook to you, we can discern signs of speedy changes for the better on your planet, and the very causes you have dreaded as the hardest to eradicate are the factors producing the cure. In this way evils reach their limit or stage of vastation sooner or later; and, according to this law any great excesses are remedied sooner than small ones;—they having gone their limit and awakened the necessary disgust to arouse public sentiment against them, they must go and give place to a better

order of things. Had your evil rulers been less rapacious, it would have taken centuries to accomplish the reforms that will transpire in as many years in the near future. In fact your untrustworthy statesmen, in violating the people's trust and serving only the purpose of monopoly, have unconsciously helped reforms."

The Central Assembly Building was a spacious, ornamental structure — excelling our finest specimens of architecture — and formed the center of the three great circles of government buildings. Besides the Assembly Rooms, it contained offices for the chief executives of all departments of the planet's business.

The Senate or General Assembly embraced the functions of a chief court of justice, as well as a legislative body, to transact affairs of general planetary interests, such as changes in the governmental systems and all enterprises that properly would be beyond the jurisdiction of any particular section, yet necessary for the general welfare.

Each Section, District and Sub-Division controlled their local affairs, but strictly, subject to the universal planetary law of Co-operative Equity.

The Senate Chamber was semi-circular in form (see diagram). It contained two elevated richly decorated seats for the two presidents — a male and a female — and immediately below them a handsome tier of desks for the reporting clerks. One hundred desks for the sections' representatives were arranged in front of them in form of a semi-circle, and behind the desks three tiers of handsomely finished galleries, each one slightly elevated, and back of the other, capable of seating fifteen thousand spectators; at the time of our visit it was well filled with beautiful women and maids and their intelligent escorts, who had come to listen to the words of wisdom flowing from their brightest minds of both sexes.

The contrast was very marked between the way they did business and the lobby-retarded legislation on our earth — subject more to dishonest interests than to the public welfare.

There was neither partisan division, nor excited debate. Every measure presented was for the general good, and they were received and handled in a dignified, intelligent and expeditious manner; only such remarks being offered, by others than those presenting a bill, as would tend to add more light and practicability to the measure.

We wished that a few political zealots from our planet had been there to learn the folly of party fanaticism, for this wonderful people know no other fealty than that to right.

As a sample of their legislation: A lady member offered a bill for a new and extensive line of rail and telegraph communication in a contemplated — to be — newly settled portion of the section she represented, and within thirty minutes it had received the full approbation of the members present and an order to that effect was sent to the Central Executive Board of Construction, whose office was in the building.

We were informed that within twenty-four hours every requisite step would be taken in securing the necessary skill, labor and material. All that can possibly, under a just administration, be necessary for a prompt beginning and speedy completion of the work. Thus they not only kept an intelligent supervision of all the affairs of the planet, but as well insured the execution of every large enterprise in all parts without overburdening any section, by their admirable plan of a CENTRAL control of the material and uses for such purposes. Everything that could properly be left to local management was so done.

Reader, please reflect how many conflicting interests

would arise before we could carry to completion similar enterprises.

If we leave out all other selfish considerations that necessarily impede, under the competitive system, and consider alone the part money plays in the enterprise, we have a picture of greedy strife sufficient to disgust every student of *true political and social economy*; for money exacts exorbitant tribute, for those who absolutely do nothing, for any enterprise it is used to further. When you realize that, in fact, it performs no use whatever either in production or distribution, you will see the logic of our plea against its baneful use.

We remained there until they adjourned for the day—at noon—and with my guide dined with a family in their private apartments in the hotel. Our host and hostess presided over the spiritual welfare of a portion of the district. The spiritual being the highest phase of development they choose the most gifted and cultured as the teachers and pivotal centers around which radiated all the social harmonies. Our hosts impressed us with the use of an enlightened ministry in a true government of mankind. The lady remarked: "The brightest intellects become selfishly cynical and indifferent to all the superior inspirations of intuition which have keener perceptions and a clearer power of elucidation of *the esse of life*, than the slow, material-bounded processes of reason. Many of your brilliant scientists and scholars reject their intuitive monitors because they have not yet learned to reduce them to the same processes of analysis as the chemist separates and classifies the component parts of any given substance in his laboratory. O! pigmy mortals, who among you have attained the stature of Deity that ye take unto yourself the right to denounce, as fit only to

be ridiculed, that which none but the Gods may fully comprehend?"

We learned from this intelligent couple a great many—to us—new ideas about the spiritual laws relating to the development of humanity, and had our voyage been made but for this purpose alone we would be amply gratified with the result; but as our object is not to preach a sermon, we will not discuss the subject any further.

We parted company with our host at three o'clock and took the train for a suburban pleasure resort; speaking about the beautiful scenery and the remarkable cleanliness and order everywhere, the conversation drifted to the subject of hygiene, and my remarkably intelligent companion-guide discussed the subject at length. The following is a very brief glimpse of her remarks: "Hygiene is the most important factor of physical comfort and development, therefore it receives, from us, all the attention that its importance demands. It is one of the many sciences under the supervision of the Board of Education and is connected with the Medical Department and scientifically applied anywhere. Eight competent physicians with a corps of nurses are apportioned to every section of the cities, and to every ten miles square of agricultural and mining districts; ordinarily they are on duty six hours out of the twenty-four, two at a time. They have supervision of all hygienic matters in their respective districts, and nothing is left undone that will administer to the health of the people. We know that it is wiser to support this extensive department for the preservation of health than to do as you do, and pay ten times as much to repair the damage done by neglect.

"Physicians are also connected with all the Construction Bureaus, so as to insure the healthful construction,



of public and private buildings, docks, warehouses factories, etc. Two imperative rules were strictly observed and incorporated in the laws of the planet : That sunlight for a portion of the day, and a fresh current of air at any time, can be admitted to every apartment in the buildings. By careful vigilance in this respect we have entirely eradicated the diseases which at one time existed here, and still prevail on your planet.

"We do not hesitate to prohibit that which we know is inimical to the general good — and here we draw the line of governmental authority; you allow too much trifling in this respect on your planet. The cry of infringement of personal liberty, etc., so cunningly used against the efforts to restrain evil, comes from wrong-doers, for, like the robbers and murderers who infest the highways and dens of vice, they do not like their strongholds assailed."

I thought of the illy-constructed public and private buildings, and the filthy, crowded scenes in our cities on earth, disregarding every principle of hygiene, under the control of municipal authorities who are so selfishly dependent on the grasping owners of property and the vicious elements for their positions and salaries that they dare not prohibit these pest-breeding centers and schools of iniquity for fear of conflicting with their own means of support, though at times, to throw dust in the eyes of the public, they make a few spasmodic attempts to correct them. Such will ever be the worm-eaten fruit of the competitive system.

We alighted at a park, situated around an oval lake several miles in extent, containing three islands beautifully adorned with pavilions, bowers, trees, shrubs and flowers and velvety lawns.

The lake was well supplied with pleasure boats — some of them were continually conveying passengers to

and from the islands, and others were sailing, rowing or propelling about in all directions.

Around the park, near the edge of the water, was a double motor-track with cars, making the circuit every half hour in opposite directions, making it very convenient to reach any part in a short time.

The groves of beautiful shade and fruit trees were arranged so as not to obstruct any of the views; very attractive flower beds were arranged in a great variety of pleasing forms, and there were numerous ornate buildings for gymnastics, dancing and several other very amusing games, and some of them contained every appliance to administer to the enjoyment of young children.

The park was under the management of two directors, with an efficient corps of gardeners; they dwelt in a finely constructed building near the lake, which also contained restaurants for the accommodation of visitors. Several refreshment stands were located throughout the immense park, and one on each island, where they served refreshing non-intoxicating drinks, fruit and bon-bons, etc., to those who desired them; they were a part of the refreshment and restaurant system, which extended all over the inhabited parts of the planet, and like all the other uses has its Head Bureau at the Capital City.

After we had taken a ride around the border of the lake and visited the most interesting parts of the grounds we took a light boat and rowed to one of the islands; comfortably reclining on a grassy slope, 'neath a beautiful bower commanding a fine view of the lake and park, a fit place to contemplate the bounty of creation and to reflect on the admirable uses made of them by this advanced people.

Blessed peace and plenty reigned supreme.

My attention naturally reverted to the turbulent con-



trast of life on our earth : the merciless wars and bitter contests between nations in their ambitious strife for conquest ; the strong preying upon the weak ; those of superior knowledge using it to fleece the weaker or less favored of their rights and substance. My guide, in answer to my thoughts, remarked :—

“ We maintain this great harmony in society and in all our surroundings by a vigilant guard against the encroachments of selfish strife, whether in public or private life.

“ War is a terrible calamity ; but it is only an exaggerated picture of competitive commerce, ruled by contention from the petty venders to the grand princes of trade. Its blighting power will disappear as you remove the power of money and consolidate your now isolated interests into mutual co-operation.

“ A glorious era will soon be inaugurated on your planet.

“ The age of brute force is nearing the end ; the morning of equity is dawning.

“ I see that your attention has been given to this subject for a number of years, but you must not expect to solve in so short a period a problem that we wrestled with for centuries ; however, your planet will have the benefit of our experience, and possibly you may accomplish it in a very few years.

“ The power of money is the greatest evil to overcome, as it is truly the foster mother of every phase of evil ; it has spread its poisonous growth through every fiber of your social organism, and has attained stupendous magnitude ; you must exercise the most consummate skill in dealing with it. The best line of policy, and one I see that you and several others have for many years contemplated, is to legislate to curtail its power of excessive control of the soil and minerals. This can be done in several ways : By accumulative interest

imposed on its hoardings ; and also prevent its security in investments in real estate, by imposing the accumulative tax on all forms of property over the holdings of a moderate limit. This would be a strictly just way of dealing with both the money and real estate issue.

“Money would lose its attractiveness to hoard in proportion as legislation burdened its excessive hoardings with taxation, and it would act precisely the same way in reducing large real estate holdings, which is the greatest curse of the age.

“Lessening the opportunities of the few to amass their millions would not, as many suppose, cripple enterprise ; on the contrary it would accelerate it, for in proportion as the money went out of the hands of the few and into the hands of the many, there would immediately be an increased demand for the products of every branch of industry, and the public spirit, in pace with their increased prosperity, would conceive new enterprises, and all large monopolies and monied corporations having disappeared, they would have to be done by co-operative organization — *the very thing desired*. Here is the decided advantage, for, instead of the profits going to the few again in vast sums, and correspondingly out of circulation, they would be divided among the many co-operators, to be soon put in circulation, to temporarily stimulate all the industries, relieving us of the terrible condition of enforced idleness. This would enlarge public perception to the real value of co-operative enterprise ; and with their development would decrease the use of money as a medium of exchange, and also usher in the true civilization of mankind, for its desire is the key of true civilization.

“The security and profit of money by investments in real estate — *which is indestructible* — is, to quote your own words delivered in 1873 in the great city by the

lake: 'It is the root of all the discordant conditions that interfere with the material welfare of humanity.' We have watched with a great deal of amusement the many illogical arguments used against those who are endeavoring to bring about a better order of things. You have too frequently attributed it to a determination on the part of those who are interested in existing conditions to oppose reform measures for purely selfish motives. Here you make a serious mistake, for a majority of those who oppose them are honest in their convictions, but are so absorbed in the pursuit of wealth as to be morally incapable of appreciating a true state of equity, for all the selfish surroundings of life have dwarfed the noble faculties and moulded them unconsciously into moral deformity. Be more charitable with them, for, though high their social standing and apparent culture, yet they are spiritually blind. The good example of co-operation will in time enlighten them to a clearer sense of their duty." *

* "The increase of educational facilities and the wonderful development of ingenious mechanical appliances are evolving humanity out of the old and contracted methods of economics into the newer and broader conceptions of justice.

"There can be no misinterpretation of the 'handwriting on the wall.' All o'er the earth the demand for a better government of mankind is heard; the feeling is becoming general that all this enforced idleness, want and strife, in the midst of the earth's great bounty, is radically wrong and sufficient proof of the fallacy of the competitive system to do justice and wisely and orderly govern society. Change is inevitable. The land and income questions will be the first questions dealt with, but their contemplated disposal will only be adequate to meet the exigencies of the times for a few years at most; for as certain as the sun shines we are entering the portals of a TRUE INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE AGE, when all the best energies of society will be directed to equitable production and distribution, and all the wrongs now legalized and blocking the pathways of human progress be removed. This will be accomplished in a very short time by a combination of factors, in which the benevolent qualities of human nature will not, at first, play a very conspicuous part, for society is being forced to their adoption in

She recounted many interesting incidents of their planet's past history and entertained with such exquisite tact that the hours passed by unnoticed. It was twilight; we were wending our way towards the boat, as I supposed to return to the main shore and take the train for the city. My lovely ideal guide suddenly paused and said: "Now, dear friend, we must part." I was about to remonstrate against such a sudden leave taking.

But other will than mine to move
My life-line in a fitting groove;
My lips thrill with a chastely kiss
And instantly my guide I miss.

The voyage at an end: again upon the earth,
The purple sky was changing into gray;
My soul was saddened for the crimes and death
I knew so thickly strewn all o'er life's way.

Back rolls the curtain canopy of night;
The golden sunlight streaming through the dawn
Spreads wide again the beams of glorious light,
And Nature wakes and smiles in joyous morn.

And this bright emblem of the better day
We glimpse approaching for the human race;
Truth's torch has spread its light upon the way;
The paths to "Golden Age" we clearly trace.

Then minds of men with social truths imbued
For good of all will work; not selfish strife,
That Nature's blessings may be wisely used,
And mankind truly live the better life.

spite of even their obstinate selfishness, by the very measures they have instituted for greedy purposes — but which, serpent like, now turn and sting them."

REMINISCENCES OF YOUTH.

Sweet morn ! All hail the birth of glorious day !
While blessed peace yet reigns o'er all the way,
Dew-moistened leaves ; petals which nightly close,
With freshened life awakening from repose.

And birds astir with grateful joy to fill
The hills and valleys with their cheerful trill ;
And o'er the soul comes welling, such a time
A quickened, clearer sense of the sublime.

'Twas such a morn I left my native place
And clearly yet each scene and thought retrace ;
The swelling breast, the curtain dim of tears
When parting from the clustering loves of years.

Sweet memories revived once more,
And fancy treads our boyhood's shore,
Seeks out the old familiar ways
Where oft we strayed those early days.

The boys with whom our play was shared,
And many a reckless danger dared
O'er cliffs on shore and out afloat
Miles from the shore in tiny boat.

How pleasant when the school was out,
With hearts so light and stride so stout,
Along the vale we'd blithesome trip
And nature's sweetest nectar sip,

Or ramble o'er the rocky hills,
Whence spring the crystal leaping rills
When tired seek a cosy nook
To tell a tale, or read from book.

And many a lesson there was taught
To us, with life long interest fraught ;
And close as tendrils of a vine
Our hearts around those scenes entwine.

E'en then, so young, the plans we laid
To win smiles from our ideal maid ;
And in our youthful fancy thought
Us knight as good as ever fought

On charger, with high mettled prance,
Armed cap-a-pie with axe and lance ;
In dauntless conflict for their queen,
They deemed the fairest to be seen.

The tender hand-squeeze, and the bliss
With which we sipped the stolen kiss ;
Then pouting at some fancied slight
The bright day dream would turn to night.

But soon again — with power so strange —
A look our frowns to smiles could change
And hand in hand, o'er dale and hill
With fragrant flowers our hats would fill,

Then seated weave a graceful wreath
To place upon the hat of each ;
And ne'er was homage more sincere
Than mine, to her I prized so dear.

Her face of an angelic mould
In every feature goodness told,
And all times with a golden thread
Of purity my steps she led.

At times together we would take
Our pencils, books and sketches make ;
For nature with a lavish hand
Had beauty spread on every hand.

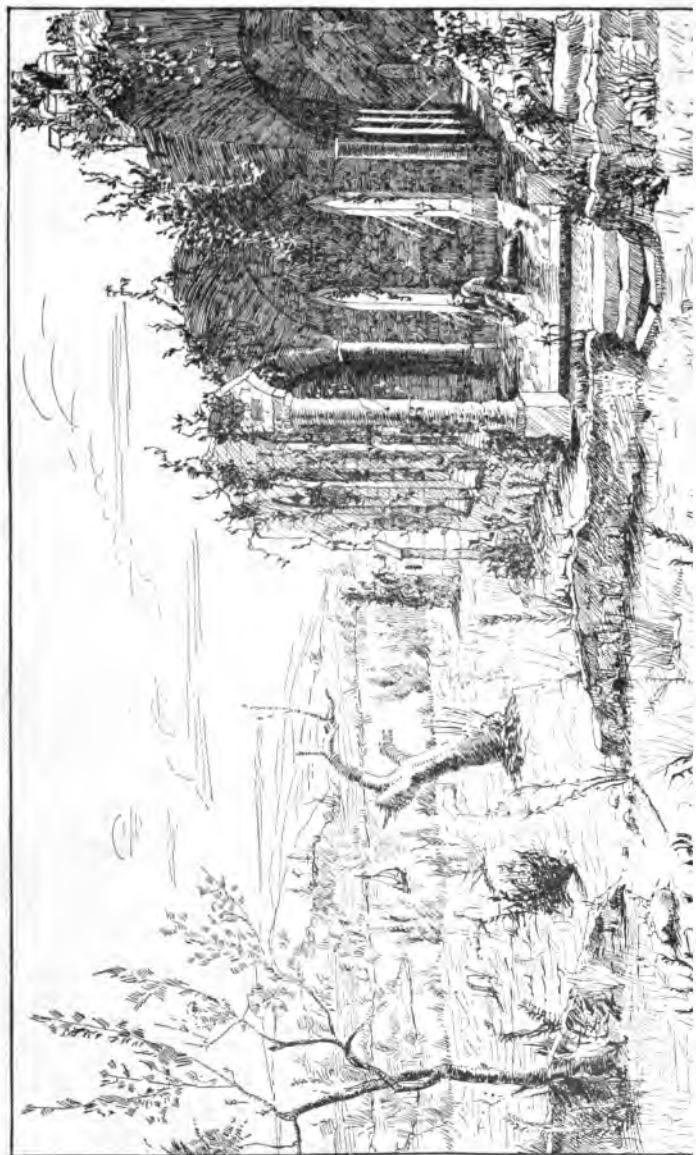
With head uncovered oft we've stood
In silent praise of nature's good ;
And reverence with thrilling well
Entranced us with Divinest spell.

The landscapes' panoramic view,
Ne'er artist's skill such pictures drew ;
The distant hills in tinted grays ;
The river winding many ways.

The hedge trimmed lanes we loved so well ;
The crystal brook course through the dell,
Where oft with silken baited hook
The weary trout we skillfully took.

The orchards, fields of golden grain ;
The sturdy yeomen's fruitful gain ;
Farms, villages in distance seen
Give vary to the grays and green.

The daisies, and the buttercup
From which the fancied fairies sup ;
Primroses with their mild perfume ;
And meadow larks with sweetest tune.



The Abbey ruins, ivy dressed,
Where once fair dames and knights confessed ;
And fittingly its festoons drape
The ancient pile with graceful shape :

Through centuries has steadfast clung
Around thy time worn walls, and hung
A leafy mantel, richly spread
O'er treasured memories of the dead.

The Gothic Chapel, now defaced,
With sculptur'd richest art once traced ;
Stained windows, frescoes rich and rare
All now the general ruin share.

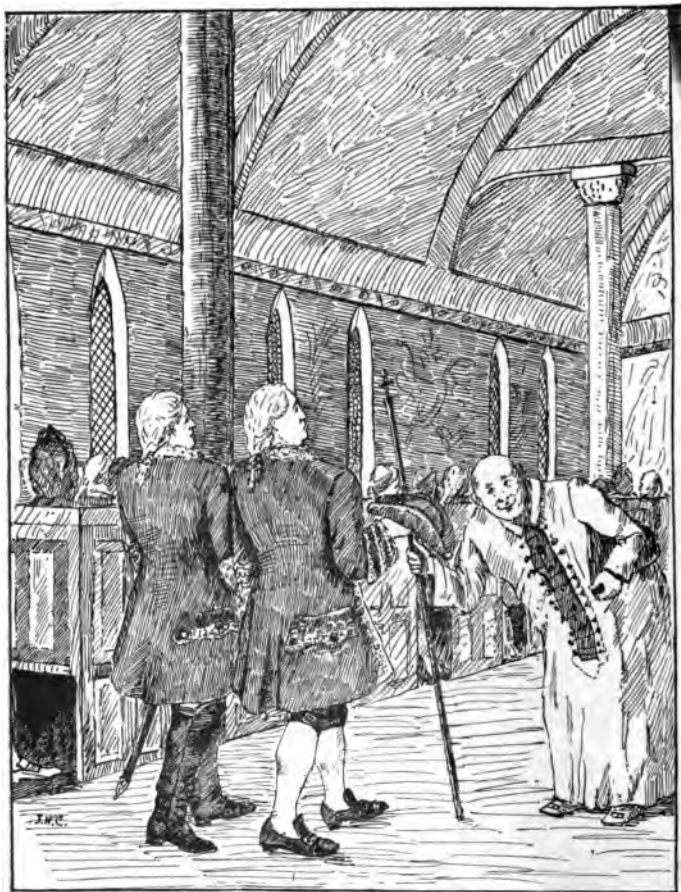
Through narrow window spaces gleam
The sunlight with a silver sheen ;
O'er ruined tesseled floors are spread
The moss and grass to bear our tread :

And musing there for many an hour,
It seemed as though some ghostly power
Was there, who ages in the past
Their lot had in these cloisters cast.

Perhaps with hopes as bright as ours,
In their day spent the leisure hours,
And sought as earnestly to scan
A perfect social state for man.

Planning to save the world they'd shun ;
Unfinished left their work begun,
Back to this earthly plane to aid
In working good, in their day prayed.

In vivid fancy 'gain I trace
The ancient life stream of the place ;
As if in panoramic view
The villagers pass in review.



To mass and vespers gathered there
The villagers from year to year ;
The stately lord and lady fair
With humble plebeians knelt in prayer.

The beadle, with airs like a king,
Marched through the aisles with pompous swing;
And woe betide the lowly pate
Come strutting into service late.

Now rapping, wooden sleepy heads
Who'd make of back of pews their beds;
And sometimes treat with silent kicks
The boys for playing impish tricks.

Then bending with a gracious bow,
Transformed so quick you'd wonder how,
Before the knight and wealthy squire,
Though late they did not raise his ire.

His type so plentiful to-day,
We meet them on most every way;
The servile, selfish, toadying souls,
Offensive as the midnight ghouls.

Self-righteous ones, who look with scorn,
'Pon those perhaps their rents have shorn,
And cloak for all they legally steal,
At service time the meekest kneel.

The magistrate, who sternly just,
So dignified fulfills his trust;
Compassionless to all appeal,
Long sentence those who trifles steal.

Learned barristers, attorneys too
Are passing by — and not a few —
No matter whether wrong or right
They'd make the black appear as white.

And quibbles raise about the laws,
'Tis plain were made to fill their paws ;
And legal statutes prove to all
The people have no rights at all.

The politicians, so suave,
For every public ill a salve ;
Upon the platform or the stump
Their voices raise and fists will thump.

And promise to espouse the right
And every evil put to flight,
Yet twist and squirm, turn like a wheel
To legalize the greatest steal.

These statesmen who are so profound ;
Their dullest jokes deemed something sound ;
Their economic logic, poor,
As twice two five instead of four.

The pedants with the sagest look,
Quote classics perfect as a book ;
Add proudly to their names A. B.,
Yet veriest dolts in right may be.

The scribes so knowing, deem their ken
So wise above all other men ;
Prescribing this, and lauding that ;
By toadying their purses fat.

They watch with eagerness to find
The pap to feed the vulgar mind ;
Time servers ; lowest of their kine ;
Are pictured best among the swine.

The dauntless souls, with all their might
'Gainst wrong contending for the right ;
Their purpose lofty, ne'er would
The popular errors for their gain.

The taunts of tyrants ; and hard strife
For daily bread were theirs through life ;
Returning to these cloisters now,
Each with a crown upon his brow.

Rich dames and maids pass up the aisles
Dressed in the costliest, latest styles ;
Brush by with cold disdain and stare
The rustic lasses gathered there.

Ne'er thinking whence the riches came ;
If known perhaps the blush of shame
Would cause these dames and maids to hide
Their faces now so full of pride.

And walking in the motley throng
A plebeian maid, meek, passed along,
With timid hesitating tread,
Doubting the right to raise her head.

Yet every waking hour of day
Incessant toil for trifling pay ;
Need ask I of the classes, which,
Deserving best, the poor or rich ?

Enamored youths, who sit and stare
At rustic lasses, plump and fair ;
The maid's coy glances speaking plain —
Though they would hide — each favored swain.

The blithesome trip of little feet
Come with their parents, dressed so neat ;
To sit long hours imprisoned there,
To fidget, yawn and restless stare.

Bright youth and age for centuries trod
These aisles in service to their God ;
To christenings and weddings here,
And oft to shed the funeral tear.

And there a ruined niche, 'tis said
A resting place of noble dead :
A dauntless knight and lady fair
For centuries reposing there.

Perhaps the story you would know ;
Romantic, yet so full of woe ;
I'll strive in fewest lines to tell
The legend with so sad a knell.

A lord, so proud, of large domain,
Had frowned 'pon a presumptuous swain ;
And bid him gain renown world wide,
Ere he could have his heart's best pride.

Fair Helen — cast in loveliest mould —
By her stern sire, the story's told,
Confined within the castle's keep,
And guarded waking and in sleep.

The youth at large ; the maid confined ;
In vain the weary months repined ;
For they were foiled in every scheme,
To see each other's love-lit gleam.

Ah! rumors everywhere were rife,
Portending long and fiercest strife
With heathen foes, who vilely toss
Their insults at the Christian's cross.

The youth with ardor for renown,
And favor win instead of frown,
Among the first with gauntlet hand
Took sword and left his native land.

BATTLE-SCENE.

And long the struggle, like a flood,
A deluge poured of human blood;
And aching hearts sought long in vain
To knowledge of their dear ones' gain.

And many a deed of chivalry
Was done upon this gory sea;
And in the fiercest of the fight
A bright-plumed knight led all in sight.

Three motives, each full strong, to hold
This valorous knight to deeds so bold;
His nation's trust; the Faith Divine,
And fame to offer at love's shrine.

The war's destructive work is done;
The Cross from Crescent victory won;
And valiant knights, so grim and stern,
To peaceful homes again return.

And everywhere throughout the land
Great honors shown to this brave band;
But singled out for favors, rare,
The bright-plumed knight — beyond compare.



Now laurel wreathed, with hopes so high
 The castle he at last draws nigh ;
 And 'stead of love's bright glance to greet
 The sorrowing lord falls at his feet.



How proud he'd been to grant him now —
 With noblest seal upon his brow —
 Alas ! sad fate ! The father's pride
 Sank 'neath a pestilential tide.

When dread disease swept o'er the land
 Fair Helen with 'ministering hand,
 Was seen where death reaped greatest gain ;
 An angel soothing others' pain.

The plague relentless, seeking prey,
 Smote great and lowly on its way ;
 And this bright flower, too pure for earth,
 Fell by the scourge's blighting dearth.

What all the glory to him now ?
As rust the laurels on his brow ;
This warrior bold, of high renown
Assumed the friar's cowl and gown.



By unseen powers, from above,
Directed through undying love,
Throughout his days — with looks so sad —
Strove well to make the sorrowing glad.

If stones could speak to us and show
The heart-aches that these cloisters know ;
What hopes, and blighted aims they hide,
That drifted here on time's swift tide.

Our footsteps too are impressed here,
And we can trace their imprints clear ;
And recollection's wondrous spell
Can make the bosom throb and well.

In vain repress the deep drawn sigh
When dwelling on those years passed by :
For visions then upon our sight
Prophetic flowed in heavenly light

And clearly with the inner sight
We glimpsed the dawn beyond the night ;
And led by an angelic power
Aspired the truth to broad-cast shower ;

That from false hopes, the strife and dread,
Of life, we better pathways tread ;
Root out the appetite for greed
' Pon nobler aims our soul wants feed.

Storm tossed on life's tumultuous sea
The beacon light then held for me,
Amid temptations, failures, sin
Has aided me some good to win.

Bright, joyous age ! Hope cheerfully scans
A flower-strewn path for all our plans ;
The future full of glory shone ;
The prizes fancy wrought seemed won.

The rosy hue of youth's day dreams,
When voyage through life so golden seems,
But sailing since upon its tide
We 've learned 't was far from smoothest glide.

Fair isles whose dazzling gems invite
Ambitious voyagers' eager sight ;
In riper years we strive to reach,
But strand upon some treacherous beach.

Instead of love and lofty aim,
Contention, hatred, selfish gain ;
The nobler sunk beneath the tide
While pirates safe on surface ride.

Where now the playmates of my youth ?
If living champions of the truth ?
Some lain to rest in yonder hill,
Some wanderers, some cling here still

Like fossils, souls that little see,
The mould 'neath rock, the moss on tree ;
The lives that barren frit away
Without a gleam of golden day.

Once more alone these ruins pace
Yet memory pictures many a face
Who crossed with me yon rustic stile
To wander through the crumbling pile.

Now walls and turrets lone remain,
And through them winds sound sad refrain :
Time's requiem ! The bats and rooks
Seek shelter in the ivied nooks.

THE CHUMS.

The die of every life is cast
In mould prepared in actions past,
And all our life lines clear portray
The way our sires lived their day.

Two school-mates — friends the years ago —
Through life divergent pathways go ;
The one to seek for worldly gain,
The other led by nobler aim.

Great wealth and social honors came
To him who solely sought such game ;
Men fawned and followed where he led ;
Praised loudly all he did and said ;

And when his equipage drove by
All lesser lights gave envious sigh,
Because their scheming failed to win
The wealth this giant gathered in.

Through all the gambling boards of trade
His name a flutter always made ;
His beckon was the sign to call
The fickle stocks in rise and fall ;

His life course ran, as many more,
A buccaneer upon life's shore,
With " Letters Marque," a legal right
For might to trespass on the right ;

His metal of a strong alloy,
As man he lead, as when a boy ;
Nor gave he once a thought or care
The ruin he spread everywhere.

Whilst Mammon rules the world, the strong
Will crush the weaker in the throng,
And man on twisted proverbs thrive —
As " Fittest always must survive."

Two score of years or more he'd wrought
To win the prizes that he sought ;
The goal now won, alas ! to him
All dross, divested of its glim.

The one of philosophic mind,
With aim the good of all mankind,
Walked steadfast in the path of right,
Unstinted shed a generous light ;

Took issue with the wrongs that press
Upon the weak ; sought their redress ;
Spurned riches, honors and renown,
But worked to win the nobler crown.

For all his earnest toil is poor ;
We trace him to the rich man's door ;
He did not seek his school-mate's wealth —
He'd long outgrown the lures of pelf.

A gold-laced flunkey bows him in,
Suppressing mockery and grin,
For 'neath the seedy clothes he felt
A peer — so far above him dwelt.

The millionaire, with sternest frown,
About to scold the servile clown
For bringing in without consent
The strange and seedy looking gent,

Checked the harsh words, and o'er his face
A generous welcome spread its grace.
What ! you, dear Ben, my chum at school —
Thanks ! thanks ! my servant such a fool.

The two lock hands again as yore,
In memory are boys once more.
Beneath the millionaire's stern mien,
Though buried deep, a precious mine.

And angel power had planned it so,
The wise one to the rich should go,
To turn his wealth and massive brain
The rest of life for mankind's gain ;

And kindly fate well choose the time
To the great merchant's heart incline
To faithful work the rest of life
To banish poverty and strife.

And shining now like meteors bright
They light the gloom of life's dull night ;
With power of wealth and generous mind,
They lead reforms for all mankind ;

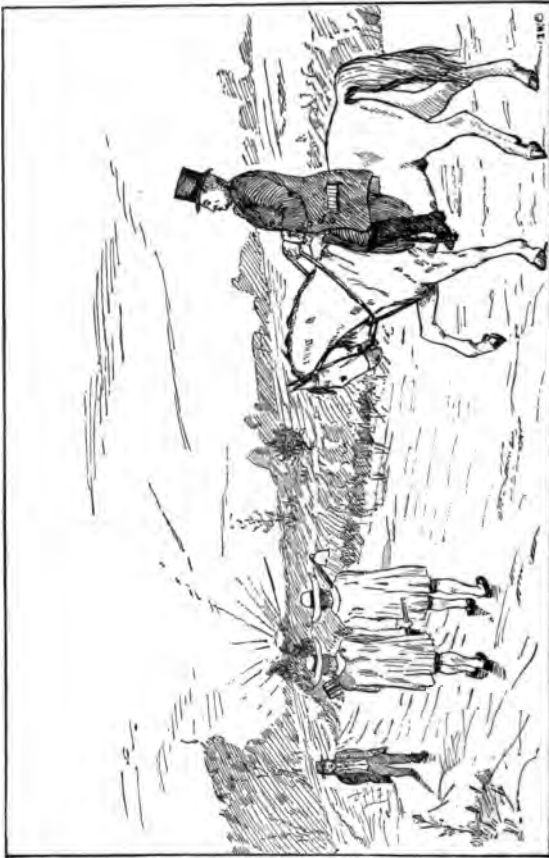
Win laurels from the angel world
For every noble truth unfurled,
And when the work of life is o'er
Meet glorious welcome on their shore.

THE MEASURE.

A sage 'pon knowledge of mankind intent,
With earnest quest upon a journey went ;
To gauge the aims of mankind, on his way,
He measured carefully all he met that day.

The mellow morn arrayed in golden spray ;
Each dewdrop glistening with a gem-like ray ;
Earth's vapory breath in graceful folds ascend,
To spirit-like with unseen forces blend.

With stolid look as though but half awake,
The hard-worked yeomen to their fields betake ;
Unceasing toil, from early morn to night,
O'er all their finer senses spread a blight.



With Nature's smiles to greet them everywhere,
Their stunted growth her blessings fail to share ;
And few among them, it was clearly seen,
The soul's rich harvest fields were fit to glean.

A wealthy 'squire, erect on prancing steed,
With more of worldly blessings than his need,
With lofty pride this early morning rode
By ill paid toil, who plowed for him and sowed.

What cared he for their weary toil and pains ;
The silly plebes fit only for his gains ;
He met their morning greeting with stiff nod,
Forsooth he owned the ground 'pon which they trod.

For miles around his sight could glut its fill
On fallow fields his cringing hirelings till ;
The money power — so absolute in might —
Controls the soil — God's gift to all by right.

And plodding by, with heavy load aback,
A peddling merchant bent beneath his pack ;
The sharp cut nose, the cold and greedy stare
Bespoke a soul with little good to spare.

The aim in life the looks so plainly told
Was selling wares to swell his store of gold ;
A small edition of a class we find
That selfish rules the interest of mankind.

The sage walked on, a city entered near
With clouds of smoke, that made the sky so drear,
Ascending from the seething cauldron greed,
Where fierce contention rules the reach for meed.

But toilers to their workshops hastening on ;
The youth, the aged, the weak and manly strong,
To ply their arts and labor hard all day :
What hopes lie crushed if all could have their say :

What glean they from the factory, shop or field,
But honest pittance 'midst the earth's great yield.
Rich bounty lavish spread on every hand —
The right of all — yet few have sole command.

The factory girls so poorly clothed and fed,
With feverish haste to slavish drudgery sped ;
To earn for ten or twelve hours' work per day
A stingy half a dollar dole as pay.

Some fair as Hebe — soon the forms so bright
Will dim and waste in labor's hopeless fight ;
Sweet maids and women there you're out of place,
Some fitter use, or home you'll better grace.

A gambler issuing from his nightly lair,
With midnight roper walked a fitting pair ;
And burly guardians of the city's peace
Changed banter with these slickest knights of fleece.

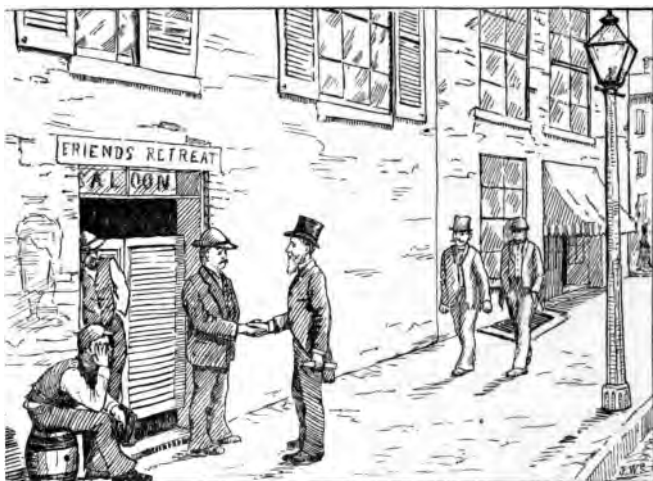
An idle sluggard, face with dirt begrimed,
An unkempt beard his ugly visage rimmed,
With ready plea your sympathies would win,
To sate his beastly habits with your tin.

From high-toned clubs, or dens assigned to sin,
Rich revellers, by hackmen gathered in ;
And slaves of drink, from palace home and slum,
Are forth again to try it on the bum.

And out this morning, bright and trim,
Resolved to suit — yes, every whim ;
The wily candidate about
To put his opponents to rout.

.

With glibbest speech and bows so low —
 So evident but shammiest show —
 He greets the toilers on the way —
 A Judas! he'd their rights betray.



Through vilest dens, without a blush,
 In search of votes will eager rush;
 To thugs will say: "I will defend
 Your rights, you know, and be your friend."

E'en stoop to libel, foment brawls,
 To reach our legislative halls;
 And when, through fools, the goal is won,
 Add proudly to his name "The Hon."

For honors thus so cheap conferred
 For months each year his voice is heard
 On finance, revenue, war or peace,
 With other's gabble, worse than geese.

With silver coinage bill they fuss,
And all its pros and cons discuss,
To end that syndicates may take,
As usual, the greedy stake.



They constantly absurdly churn
Their skim milk bills 'till they adjourn ;
And after all their pompous show,
What good? Do any of you know?

A miss goes by that cherishes
Her poodle ; on it lavishes
Her wealth and very tender care,
While millions pine for plainest fare.

The petty venders, from their stores
Take shutters down and sweep the floors,
And ready bait their greedy hooks
For trade with most enticing looks.

How pitiful — to mortal shame —
Through life that mainly all the aim
Is lust for gain, and most who win,
But selfish hoarders of the tin.

The penman, who to be genteel
And have the ladies also feel
That on high social steps, he too
Aspired to place a dainty shoe:

For sake of shoddy books 'tis clear
Waste health at desk from year to year ;
Yet at the lathe, the forge and field
Life's work would better harvests yield.

There peering from his dingy den
A social puzzle now 'mong men,
With queue so slick Ah Hun a Lee,
With sign " Do Melican Washee."

Across the way Chun Chin a Lo,
With cheap cigars spread in his show,
His leprous mouth has wet the tips
That now are offered for your lips.

And there a merchant on his way
To see employes earn their pay;
What contrast with his ease and trim
To long worked slaves — with dirt so grim.

'Tis true, perhaps with greater care
And less for foolish drinks to spare,
His thoughtful prudence gave him right
To climb on top in life's fierce fight.

The system 's wrong that heaps on few
Their more than share, so plainly due
To all who in the busy hive
Industrious at their uses strive.

For soullessly most scheme and work
And clearest sense of duty shirk,
In selfish ego, close the door
Of mercy to the weak and poor.

The judge, with look so very grave,
Consults his barber for a shave;
Did e'er the thought occur that he
Had helped the shear of flimsiest plea?

There college alumni would show
Above all human kind they grow;
Sneer down all those — to their surprise —
Who parchments lack, but upward rise.

The age is passing fast away
For false pretense to longer prey
On other's rights: the gates are wide
Of progress for the human tide.

Kind Nature, generous in her care,
With lavish bounty everywhere ;
Refreshing dew, sunshine and shower
Unstinted like to weed and flower :

Yet straying, groping, seeming blind,
With diseased mind, most human-kind :
Why all this greed and fierce array ?
Halt ! Turn and walk the better way :

God's ample bounty cease abuse ;
For good of all His blessings use ;
For naught but hell in this day's light
Has interest in such selfish fight.

The book crammed pates, who styled, M. D.,
Would have the public also see
That they alone are fit to give
You longer lease in health to live.

Most learned dissertations write
About disease, yet jealous fight
Among themselves. Let patients die
Before they'd other pathies try.

The modern — ah ! A dude its named ;
Poor biped surely can't be blamed
For brainless antics and a shape,
Forsooth ! would shame the veriest ape.

His picture useful, well we know,
As rank weeds flowers' beauties show ;
A mirror held for drone to see
Its insignificance to bee.

On, on he went ; the day was far advanced,
Gay harnessed steeds through streets so proudly
pranced,
The palace marts—the lead in fashion's place—
Alive with shoddy-wealth and cultured grace.



There fair ones, ranked in social life so high,
We trust your inward lives ne'er looks belie,
For moral grace, combined with outward taste,
As oasis upon life's desert waste.

Sleek, smiling, there, in front of public hall,
A sycophant to favors win from all.

He bows and scrapes to popular will and wealth,
But hounds less favored mortals to the death.

Time server with his ready well-poised speech,
So deftly planned to aid his greedy reach,
He's this and that; turns like weather vane
Upon the popular errors for his gain.

The palace dwellings, streets so broad and clean,
Where naught but taste and lavish wealth is seen.
E'en dogs and horses better housed we know
Than toilers skilled and those who plow and sow.

And from these boulevards, where all is bright,
He passed through streets, compared to them as
night,

And struggling virtue daily brushes sin,
There many frail, and few there are that win.

Where seamstresses, in garret rooms so high,
Their hands and sewing treadles ceaseless ply;
To earn perhaps for all the weary day
Few pence, the cold and hunger for their pay.

There fallen ones, the victims of mankind,
"Cast you first stone," if conscience clears your
mind.

For 'neath high manners, lives appearing trim
He plain could see the smouldering fires of sin.

The uncared gammon, on life's rugged way
Without a shepherd, doomed to early stray,
In close communion, constantly with sin;
The fold is Christ's — go, workers, gather in.

A widow and her little one's are seen
In rooms where ne'er the sunlight's cheerful gleam
Can shine, but dingy towering walls so drear,
Lik funeral pall o'er shadows all that's near.



A son, her sole support, lay sick in bed,
And others there were crying to be fed;
The mother seeking heavenly aid in prayer
While children search in vain the cupboard bare.

Along these paths of sorrow, sin and shame,
The noble few led there by generous aim,
Like ministering angels with refulgent ray
Dispelling gloom along the weary way.

Mechanics' homes, where crowded eight or ten
In space so small, scarce room for swine to pen,
Yet fifth of all these toilers hands can make
Without compunction greedy landlords take.

'Pon many there the stamp of genius shown,
Yet undeveloped, though to manhood grown ;
If early trained, most fittingly would grace
The walks of life in most exalted place :

Oh ! what a satire on our boasted age,
Recorded plainly on its every page,
That life is but a fickle game at best ;
The stakes for few ; despoiled are all the rest.

The sage though sad and weary with the wrong,
He witnessed as he measured in the throng,
Had where he went on that eventful day
Good seeds strewn thickly all along the way.

And this the lesson that he taught :
" Your life with nobler aims be fraught,
And work with might and main to bring
THE NOBLER COMING ERA in."



1







